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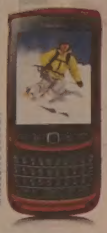

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BOYLE STREET REVITALIZATION MOVES AHEAD

After three decades of plans and talk, the building finally begins.
Photo by Craig Janzen

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NEWS · FEATURE

Boyle Street Revitalization Moves Ahead

AFTER THREE DECADES OF PLANS AND TALK, THE BUILDING FINALLY BEGINS

BY MAURICE TOUGAS

While Edmonton has been obsessing over the proposed downtown arena project and its impact on downtown, a major revitalization project is actually at the shovels-in-the-ground stage.

The Boyle Renaissance project, which was marked by a groundbreaking ceremony last week, is the first step in the long-delayed beginning of the rebirth of Edmonton's blighted downtown east end.

Encompassing a mere two-and-a-half block area between 95th and 96th Streets, from 103A Avenue north to the LRT tracks, Boyle Renaissance will take years and millions of dollars to complete, but is expected to be the catalyst for the redevelopment of Edmonton's parking-lot pockmarked east end.

The Boyle Renaissance, despite its high-tone name, does not represent the beginning of the gentrification of the area, but it will bring hundreds of new residents to an area that is currently little more than empty buildings, a salvage yard and a bottle depot.

Phase 1, to cost $42 million, includes:

- 150 affordable housing rental units (19 studios, 61 one-bedrooms, 15 one-bedroom accessible, 55 two-bedrooms) in a complex called YMCA Welcome Village;
- a family resource centre for parents and families, as well as a day care for 76 kids, also by the Edmonton YMCA;
- a 14,000 sq. ft. community centre for Boyle Street and surrounding areas, run by the Boyle Street Community League;
- underground parking for 70 vehicles.

Despite the obviously dire need for revitalization, this kind of project does not arise from the ground overnight. From the time the idea of revitalizing the eastside of downtown was hatched by former city councillor Michael Phair and Mayor Stephen Mandel, to the groundbreaking ceremony last week, four-and-a-half years have passed. And Walter Trocenko, manager, housing and projects for the city, has been there every slow step of the way.

Boyle Renaissance took some imaginative thinking, Trocenko says.

"The perspective at the time was to bring like-minded social agencies to leverage their operating models and their resources to provide social benefits to a community that was clearly in need of help," says Trocenko.

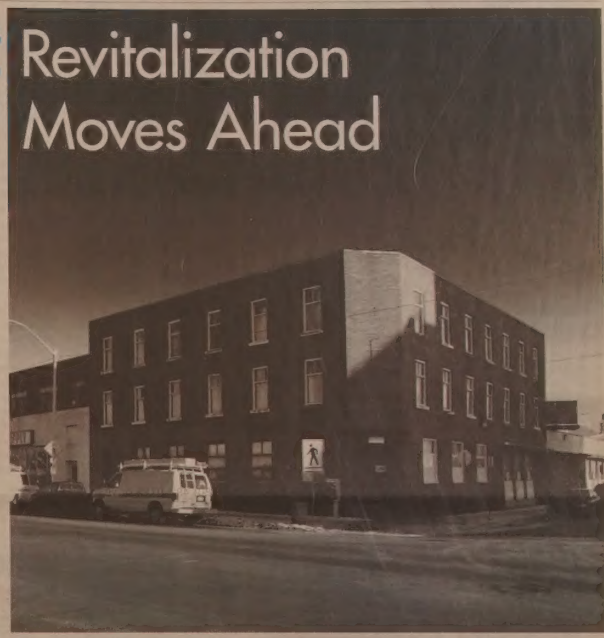
"It truly is a collection of like minded groups coming together to provide community outreach in an area that was in desperate need of it, and that's both on the market side and the non-market side."

The initial vision plan for the area goes back to February 2008. But after two-and-a-half years of talking and planning, that vision changed many times, so much so that Trocenko says the finished vision "landed in a place that I don't think anybody would have anticipated at the beginning of this process."

The much more grandiose original plan called for 900 housing units for up to 1,100 residents, at a cost of $185 million.

Although the Boyle Renaissance area itself was pretty much bereft of permanent residents – the seedy, now closed York Hotel is one of its most prominent buildings, and all the previous residents have been relocated – the residents of the Boyle Street community were most impacted, and they had a lot to say. Initial plans that called for substantial social housing – and no market housing – led to concerns of "ghettoizing" of the area. The Boyle Renaissance Advisory Committee, which consisted of upwards of 45 people, met once a month for two years to come up with the final plan.

The York Hotel, now owned by the city, is a problem. The community, says Trocenko, has an attachment to the building, which was built in 1913, for its historical significance, although the city's heritage department says it does not have significant historical significance. The city is attempting to find someone to occupy the building (there is talk of an artists' village) but to date it has proven to be too big and too run down for anyone to consider. He is confident, however, that a new purpose will be found for the building by next year. The current scrap yard also has historical significance, as it is home to the old Edmonton Iron Works building, which dates back to 1903.



The former York Hotel could become an integral part of the Boyle Renaissance project – if a new use for it can be found. | PHOTO BY CRAIG JANZEN

Trocenko has been with the city for 30 years – which is pretty much as long as the city has tried to redevelop the east side of downtown. Boyle Renaissance is the biggest leap forward in developing downtown in his career, he says.

"We've been at this for three decades," Trocenko says. "We've been close a few times in the past, but we've gone further in this attempt than we have previously."

The Boyle Renaissance is the springboard for the more complete redevelopment of east downtown, an area the city has dubbed The Quarters. It is home to about 2,400 people, and a tremendous number of surface parking lots.

"We have all the ingredients to do some absolutely amazing things with our downtown eastside."

Trocenko says the urban design plan for the area is as good as anything in the world, and the public is onside.

"We rezoned 500 parcels of land in The Quarters, and only had two people who came out to object to the rezoning."

The next phase of Boyle Renaissance is a 90-unit seniors complex, to be built by the Metis Capital Housing Corp. and the Canadian Paraplegic Assoc., which is expected to begin construction in 2011. It's in Phase 3 that more market housing comes into play, but it won't be the traditional condo units.

"This area is a little edgy, and the kind of market developments that will be successful in this area need to recognize that."

The perception of the entire east downtown area is changing, he says. Trouble spots have been closed, and residents are taking pride in their neighbourhoods.

Thim Choy, president of the Boyle Street Community League and a 40-year resident of the area, whose home and business face the first phase of the redevelopment, is generally happy with the project, but he has some long-term concerns.

"It will redevelop and rejuvenate the area," says Choi from his business, Edmonton Cash Register. "It is a good project – anything that redevelops an area is good."

But Choi says when the first discussions on the project began, the Boyle Street Community League wasn't even included in the discussions. While he's happy with the finished plans, he's concerned that the new community league building – for which the league will pay a dollar a year for five years – will prove to be too expensive for the league to operate once the five years is up.

Overall, though, reaction in the Boyle-McCauley community is positive, says Paula Kirman, editor of the Boyle-McCauley News, the community newspaper for the area.

"There's a lot of optimism about what is going on now," says Kirman. "It's been one of these situations where there has been a lot of talk and not a lot of action. Finally, something is happening, and there is a lot of optimism that the project is really going to change the face of that part of the inner city."

DINING · MID EAST

Turkish Delights Served At Food Court Gem

ANTONIO'S OFFERS A NON-BRANDED EATING EXPERIENCE AT WESTMOUNT MALL

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7241 Groat Rd.

SIDELINER'S PUB AND PANTRY,
11018-127th St.

BY SCOTT LINGLEY

We shouldn't – nay, mustn't – overlook the lowly food court as a source of enjoyable eating experiences. How many of us – who might on occasion hover over a free weekly newspaper whilst hoisting some humid, waxed paper-ensconced confabulation of sandwich-related ingredients into our maws – resort to the choice-intensive indoor dining areas that are the heart of any shopping centre deserving of the name? And though these handy communal eating appurtenances have increasingly become dominated by the same mediocre-to-lousy cookie-cutter choices that took all the fun out of fast food, it pays to keep an eye out for that rare diamond in the rough.

Westmount Centre is in the middle of an overhaul anchored by major chain grocery, drug and home reno stores, but its charm resides entirely in the retro residue from its long tenure as moribund mall and favoured walking circuit for seniors in the area. For a while, Westmount hosted not one but two shops where you could satisfy your guitar, water-pipe and butterfly-knife needs before one glass-topped counter. It still has an amazing used CD/DVD store, the hardest working embroiderers in the city and a depressingly inessential As Seen on TV Store, as well as an as-yet not-totally-gentrified food court. Bookended by the world's most ubiquitous fast food franchise on one side and that almost-as-ubiquitous sub place on the other, a few maverick kiosk operators still ply their trade – the marvelously homestyle Discovery Café, the chafing-dish Chinese feast of Oriental Gourmet, Nikki's trademark donairs and, so I've noticed of late, the offerings of **Antonio's**, a formerly stereotypically Italian take-out kiosk.

The big light-up ads for gooey pizza and unwieldy lasagna still dominate Antonio's menu board, but handmade signs announce that they now serve chicken broodje shaorma, lahmacun and Anatolian lentil soup, among other Turkish fare. Faced with the choice of brand-intensive, nutrition-lite mall-fare and an unknown quantity, I know where my money's going every time.

And here's where it pays off. Antonio's lahmacun reminds me of mamouche, a pervasive, beloved street food in parts of the Middle East that's sort of reminiscent of pizza, but rolled up for ease of transport and eating. Also, cheap. At just $3, Antonio's lahmacun does not disappoint – a thin, bready crust is slathered with savoury tomato sauce and ground meat, baked til just crispy, then filled with a salad of lettuce, tomato and red onion in creamy dressing and, at your request, hot sauce. Chase it with a $3 bowl of hearty, velvety Anatolian lentil soup and you'll never want to look at another curly fry again.

The $4 chicken shawarma sandwich is also worth trying – a generous portion of aromatically seasoned chicken stuffed into a crusty bun with salad and a garlicky dressing, which also goes well with Antonio's soup. The service is friendly, everything is made from scratch and the flavours are potent enough to stay with you all afternoon.

The day after my take-out Turkish repast, I went in search of a suitably celebratory, slightly white-trash breakfast recipe in the spirit of Grey Cup Sunday and found it in the unlikeliest of places, Niloufer Ichaporia King's award-winning *My Bombay Kitchen*, a tome that elaborates on the Persian influence on Indian culture and cuisine.

Parsis, as Persian-descended Indians are known, love eggs, often combining them with fresh herbs, chilies, ginger and garlic in scrambles, omelets and soufflés. From this grand tradition comes the recipe for wafers par ida.

The preparation method is simple: chop a small onion and fry in a skillet it in clarified butter (we used a mix of butter and vegetable oil) over medium heat. Right before it starts to brown, stir in a tablespoon each of minced garlic and grated fresh ginger, and three chopped green chilies (we used two serranos and a jalapeno, including a few seeds for extra spiciness). After that's cooked a minute or two, stir in half a cup of chopped cilantro and crumble in four big handfuls of plain potato chips. Cook for a minute or two more, make four little divots in the surface of your chip mixture and crack an egg into each divot. Add a tablespoon of water and cover the pan tightly, allowing the eggs to steam until set – no watery pools of uncooked eggwhite on the surface – but be careful not to burn it. The resulting dish is crispy and browned underneath, redolent of ginger and garlic, with a hint of capsicum fierceness and the palate-cleansing astringency of fresh cilantro. And eggs. Serve it with chutney and fresh fruit at your next wake-and-bake brunch and bask in your rightful accolades.

Tasty as my potato-chip breakfast was, I was starting to feel peckish around game time and took a chance on **Sideliner's Pub and Pantry** (11018-127th St.) for food and appropriate Grey Cup ambiance.

Not only did I find the staff welcoming and the incidental football fans amiable, I thought their game-day chili in a bread bowl ($3) went above and beyond the call of duty when it came to having something in my stomach for draft beer to land on. Made of black beans, kidney beans, diced veggies, and lean ground beef in rich, palate-tingling tomato-based gravy, Sideliner's chili was enough to persuade me I need to go back and examine their value-priced selection of pizza, sandwiches and breakfast plates more closely.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"TWITTER IS JUST A GAME THAT SOMEBODY IS MAKING A TON OF MONEY ON.

— Speaker Ken Kowalski weighs in with his opinion of the passing fad that is Twitter, in the legislature on Nov. 29.

INDY PARKING LOT SPELLS TROUBLE

The Edmonton Indy has come back to life, a noisy and cash-hungry zombie that will continue to drain the city without much measurable benefit.

The city reached a new deal with promoter Octane last week to keep the race at the City Centre Airport, by offering an additional $3 million to repave a closed runway. Private partners will contribute $1 million, with the remaining $2 million coming from the city. And that's in addition to $7 million in sponsorships and extra service costs.

The city's past experience offers little to indicate that Edmonton will receive a return on this investment. Previously, attendance numbers have not been released, and any perceived economic benefit is extremely hard to measure. If the city gets involved with these kinds of schemes, it should think like a business. Octane will make a profit on the indy, and so should Edmonton.

The city hopes to recoup the $2 million in additional costs by operating a parking lot on the area. The parking lot should take in $450,000 per year.

Coun. Don Iveson, who voted against the deal, says that a parking lot to serve NAIT students and the community around Kingsway Mall would be a step backwards in terms of encouraging alternate forms of transportation. The new LRT line to NAIT, with a stop on Kingsway, is scheduled to open in 2014.

The parking lot is expected to be a temporary measure for the next three to five years. Whether or not that's the case remains to be seen. As Iveson says: "My experience has been in this city that once you build a parking lot, it's hard to pry it from commuters' cold dead hands."

That could interfere with council's plans to develop the airport lands as a sustainable community. At the very least, putting up a parking lot could further delay the redevelopment. At the worst, the costs of the Indy could become an excuse to keep the parking lot open, and potentially ruin Edmonton's chance to build a world-class, model sustainable community steps from downtown. Endangering that vision in order to host an event that takes place one week out of the year is extremely short-sighted.

If the parking lot is indeed a temporary measure, Edmonton can bet on coughing up more money in the next round of negotiations.

A LITTLE LRT HELP, PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister Stephen Harper may have dashed Edmonton's hopes for hosting Expo 2017, but he can still come though with substantial transit funding.

City transit manager Bob Boutilier has rightly called on the feds to come up with money for the LRT, even though the city won't be hosting the world's fair.

Not counting the roughly $1 billion the feds spent on the G8 and G20 summit in Toronto, Harper gave The Big Smoke $697 million for the York University LRT extension last year. Surely, Edmonton deserves the same kind of consideration.

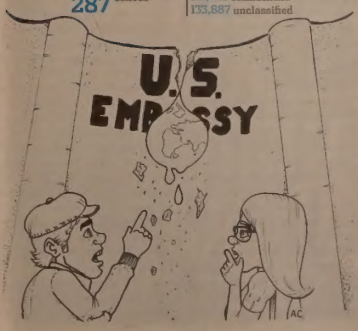
If Harper does come though, the city could get a better LRT line than if Edmonton did host Expo. Planners won't be pressured into building lines for a one-time event and prices won't balloon because of a hard deadline.

Transit funding will also be politically much easier to sallow.

BY THE NUMBERS · LEAK? MORE LIKE NIAGARA FALLS

This week, WikiLeaks began releasing a flood of confidential American embassy cables covering over 40 years of diplomatic affairs
Source: WikiLeaks

251,287 cables — 15,652 secret / 101,748 confidential / 133,887 unclassified



POINT OF VIEW · POLITICS

From Crisis to Crisis

OUTSIDE POLITICS MAURICE TOUGAS

CALL A DOCTOR! TORIES ON LIFE SUPPORT AS HEALTH-CARE CRISIS DERAILS ENTIRE GOVERNMENT

Back on Oct. 25, when the Stelmach government reluctantly began the fall session of the legislature, the Tories were looking forward to a rather sleepy cruise through to the Christmas wining-and-dining season.

Sure, there were lots of bills. The Government Organization Amendment Act. The Fuel Tax Amendment Act. The Scrap Metal Dealers and Recycling Act. The Dangerous Goods Transportation and Handling Amendment Act. Yes, that kind of stuff.

This is the way the Tories operate, and have operated for many years. Keep the legislation dull and uninspiring — at least on the surface — cloaked in any number of guises about transparency, or time saving or money saving. With any luck, the opposition parties will have nothing to shoot at, the media will get bored, and the whole bothersome exercise will just go away.

Ah, the best laid plans of mice and Stelmach...

This session of the legislature, intended to be a snooze inducer, has instead turned on the Tories. I've been watching the legislature for some time, and rarely have I seen a government look in more disarray and chaotic. A quiet, boring, get-it-done-and-get-out session turned on a dime. Or more accurately, on a letter.

As much as I would like to give the credit to the opposition parties, who did yeoman's (yeowoman? yeoperson?) work, for the most part they were just going along for the ride, happily swept along in a wave of leaked documents and ill-advised e-mails. When the letter from the emergency room doctors emerged, warning the government the system was in crisis and close to collapse, the Stelmach government's agenda went entirely off the rails. Suddenly, it was all health care, all the time.

This edition of the Perpetual Government does not handle crisis well — and make no mistake, this was one, long crisis session. The disgrace of Alberta's emergency rooms, and the government's utter indifference to warnings from emergency room doctors, was bad enough. Then came the unexpected PR fiasco of Alberta Health CEO Stephen Duckett's ill-advised cookie diet, a minor incident that was blown out of proportion and resulted, ultimately, in his firing, and a mass exodus from the Alberta Health superboard. But when Raj Sherman, a previously obscure MLA from Edmonton-Meadowlark (who succeeded an even more obscure MLA from Edmonton-Meadowlark, whose name escapes me) sent off an ill-advised e-mail blasting his own government for its ineptitude in handling emergency rooms — and that letter found its way to the Calgary Herald — a martyr/hero was born and the crisis only worsened.

The Sherman episode provided a wonderful example of how not to handle a troublesome employee. Initially, the Tories did everything right. Sherman was treated with kid gloves owing to the illness of his father and his general state of exhaustion. Everybody, it appeared, loved Raj and wanted nothing but the best for him. But then, Sherman carried on with his gripes about the government, specifically saying that the former health minister, Ron Liepert, was

TOUGAS cont'd on pg. 8

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call to artists

Call to Artists - Request for Proposals

Beverly Entrance Feature Public Art Project

Budget: $23,000 CAD (maximum, all inclusive)
Eligibility: All Canadian visual artists
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Installation: June 2011

Call to Artists - Request for Qualifications

Engineering Services Building Public Art Project

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Eligibility: All Canadian and International visual artists
Deadline: 4:30 pm on Friday, January 14th, 2011
Installation: June 2013

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NEWS - REPORT FROM UN CONFERENCE IN CANCUN

Canada and Climate Change

CANADA HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE AT THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

BY JOANNA DAFOE

CANCUN, Mexico — Will Canada step forward as a world leader at the UN climate change conference? Or sit back and do nothing.

Negotiators from around the world have gathered in Cancun this week for the UN conference on climate change. An anticipated 15,000 will take part in the meetings running to Dec. 10.

The ultimate goal for negotiations is to develop a climate treaty to enhance previous efforts under the Kyoto Protocol. Even though the much-anticipated Copenhagen meeting last December did not deliver the intended result of a legal treaty, there is still potential to make significant progress in Cancun. The decisions made by next week will determine whether a fair and legal treaty can be reached next year.

What can be decided in Cancun? A positive outcome in Cancun will restore confidence in collective action so that leaders can develop a full climate treaty by next year. Sure, these meetings are known for the (often esoteric) debate on emissions reduction targets, the success of Cancun is hinged on more than just stark numbers. Some areas where progress can be made relate to forestry, financing, and support for adaptation.

As a major sink for carbon emissions, forestry protection is a vital part of a successful climate deal. According to the Climate Action Network International, the largest coalition of environmental non-governmental organizations, the Cancun outcome should aim for a decision to stop "deforestation and degradation of natural forests and related emissions completely, by 2020." The outcome on forestry decisions will shape the ability for world leaders to keep climate change below dangerous levels. A forestry decision must be agreed upon in a way that respects and upholds the governance of local communities and nations.

Like any political issue that is sufficiently large, money is bound to come into the picture. Financing climate change schemes in developing countries is now a linchpin issue at the UN. The outcome on finance decisions can help gather momentum or dismantle cooperation. A report issued to the UN Secretary General urged for the inclusion of major multilateral development banks, like the World Bank, into the negotiating process. For many developing countries and environmental groups, this outcome embodies the worst turn the UN can take. As an institution known lack transparent and democratic standards, a World Bank presence in the climate meetings will undermine trust in the climate meetings and dismantle cooperation. Environmental groups and developing countries are vetting for a Climate Fund to be established in Cancun that is governed and monitored by the United Nations.

Another big issue in Cancun is adaptation — support to the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities to cope with the impacts of climate change. Changing weather patterns have taken a devastating toll on countries around the world, which has made adaptation a priority, from the heatwaves in Russia to the flooding in Pakistan. The development of an Adaptation Framework in Cancun can ensure funding for those countries that need it most so they can adapt to these changing weather patterns.

But success in Cancun also depends on the negotiating atmosphere, an outcome that is less tangible than forestry or finance. A successful outcome also requires a sense of trust and cooperation among countries in order to garner support in collective action. This past year in the preparatory climate meetings to Cancun, negotiators continually emphasized the need to restore trust between developed and developing countries. After the Copenhagen meetings of last December, largely known for the underwhelming quasi-agreement, the "Copenhagen Accord," negotiators need to build a spirit of support among one another.

AS ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, CANADA CAN DEFINE ITS ROLE IN CANCUN AS A LEADER.

Canada plays an important role in building this trust. With the Senate defeat of Bill C-311, the Climate Change Accountability Act that set science-based emissions reduction targets, the Canadian Delegation has shown up Cancun empty handed.

European countries and many environment groups urge Canada to reduce its greenhouse gas pollution to 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020, but since 1990 our greenhouse gas emissions levels have actually grown by 24 per cent.

As one of the wealthiest countries in the world, Canada can define its role in Cancun as a leader. Eyes are on Cancun to see if we take on this opportunity.

Dafoe is the Canadian tracker with Adopt a Negotiator and reports from Cancun at adoptanegotiator.org.

TOUGAS (cont'd from p. 6)

rude and abusive to front-line medical staff. Liepert, a sensitive, caring man (cough-cough) took exception, and nothing makes a rude and abusive person angrier than being called rude and abusive. That was it for Sherman, of course. You can't personally criticize a cabinet minister, particularly a powerful one. Liepert should, of course, just gritted his teeth and let it slide with a warning to Sherman, but clearly he's not that kind of guy.

The Tories were apparently unfamiliar with the saying 'keep your friends close, and your enemies closer'. So Sherman got the heave-ho, and suddenly he's a hero. An accidental hero, mind you — his e-mail was leaked, and not deliberately made public — but a hero nonetheless. After creating this Frankenstein/hero, things got worse. Sherman then made a series of unfounded and impossible to prove statements that the government was out to get him, that Stelmach wanted his medical licence, that he was called a "cancer" (this one sounds true), and that the government was out to get him by questioning his mental health, via a phone call from MLA Fred Horne to the AMA about Sherman's mental state.

I have no idea what to make of this, to be honest. It doesn't ring true to me that the Tories, as vindictive and desperate as they are, would conspire, in such a brazen form, to quash the medical career of Sherman. Nor do I believe that Stelmach would try to get Sherman's medical licence. Stelmach may not be a candidate for Mensa at any time in the future, and his political instincts are pathetic, but he's not stupid.

Horne, the MLA who made the call to the AMA about Sherman, spoke in the legislature on Monday, and was quite convincing in saying that his only concern was the well-being of his "friend." Still, it was a shockingly dumb thing to do.

Now comes the revelation by the Liberals of a government PowerPoint presentation that suggested extensive privatization of the healthcare system. That means a few more days of relentless pounding in the legislature, and an increasingly angry and suspicious public.

For Ed Stelmach, this session of the legislature can't end soon enough. It has been one, long, complete and total screw up.

You're welcome to follow my blog postings at mauricetougas.wordpress.com.

POINT OF VIEW • HEALTH

All-Natural Sweetener Stevia Making Inroads

HOLISTIC HEALTH 101 ROBERTA SHEPHERD

WHY USE ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS WHEN AN ALL-NATURAL PRODUCT IS AVAILABLE?

Are artificial sweeteners safe for consumption? This has been in question for many years and there are numerous arguments and studies on both sides of the debate.

Artificial sweeteners burst onto the market in the 1950s, hailed as a miraculous discovery for weight loss and diabetes. Since then, there has been a list of available artificial sweeteners and numerous complicated studies that are associated with their safety – or lack thereof. Aspartame is one of the more popular artificial sweeteners and is found in more than 6,000 foods. Other artificial sweeteners include sucralose, saccharin, acesulfame K and neotame. Essentially, these are substances whose chemical structures are similar to that of common sugar, but that are non-nutritive in nature, meaning that they don't provide any calories. Further, their affect on blood sugar levels is negligible in comparison to common sugar. The most common foods that contain artificial sweeteners are calorie reduced, diet and low-fat products, sugar-free products, gums and breath mints.

Over the years, there have been many attempts to ban artificial sweeteners (especially aspartame) from the market. These attempts have been rooted in a myriad of studies indicating that artificial sweeteners can exacerbate and even cause a disturbing list of physiological challenges such as tumours, epilepsy and seizures, Alzheimer's disease, brain damage, emotional and mood disorders, diabetes, birth defects, blood sugar imbalances, endocrine dysfunctions, irritability, muscle dysfunctions and many different types of cancer. One study notes a worsening of symptoms in those suffering from depression and mental disorders.

Nevertheless, Health Canada considers artificial sweeteners safe and approves them for use. They also provide information supporting the idea that possible ill effects from consuming artificial sweeteners are only allegations. It's valid to say that in many cases – it would take a phenomenal amount of any of the artificial sweeteners mentioned here to cause any of the above listed disorders. However, if you have a choice between a manufactured good and something that grows naturally, it's always better to choose that which is most health promoting. Artificial sweeteners, while they may not immediately cause glaring adverse symptoms, can't exactly be considered health promoting.

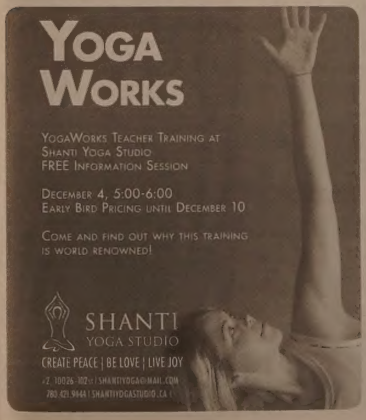
I believe that the primary point of consideration here is that artificial sweeteners are man-made in laboratories. From a holistic nutritional perspective, all foods that have been altered by man ought to be in question when contemplating one's overall and optimal expression of health and wellness. All manufactured foods are less than life giving in that they are dead themselves – they haven't been plucked from a tree or bush and certainly haven't grown in the ground. That being said, they're unable to provide any nutritional value that contributes to basic health and they definitely don't improve overall well-being. If you're a person who would be inclined to use a sugar substitute because of diabetes, for example, or in the interests of weight loss, why not try stevia instead?

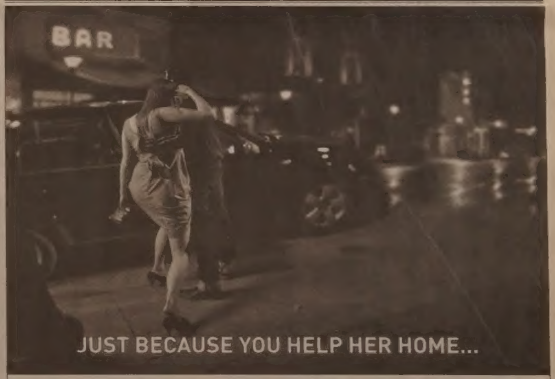
Stevia is a naturally sweet leaf from the asteraceae (sunflower) family native to South and North America. It has also been called sugarleaf or sweetleaf. Stevia is harvested from Mother Earth and not only is it a safe sugar substitute, it's said to be hypoglycaemic (lowers blood sugar levels) while enhancing glucose tolerance and nourishing the pancreas, meaning it would be beneficial for those suffering from diabetes. Stevia is also said to have potential cardiotonic action, meaning that it strengthens the cardiovascular system.

So considering the choice between laboratory produced artificial sweeteners that are associated with oodles of disorders OR a naturally sweet leaf that improves overall health – what are you going to choose? Personally, I'd going with stevia.

Stevia is available in powdered or liquid form at any natural health food store or, these days, just as readily at your big chain grocery stores in the natural foods departments. Stevia is equally potent in its sweetness as most artificial sweeteners, so very little is needed to achieve your desired sweetness. Stevia can be used for sweetening beverages, baking or cooking. It's even available in small, individual-use packets. If you're a person who commonly uses artificial sweeteners like aspartame and its counterparts, I'm going to suggest you reconsider next time and try stevia. I'm sure your body will thank you for it.

Stevia in its natural state. | PHOTO SUPPLIED





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Stay Local This Holiday Season

EDMONTON SANTAS HAVE PLENTY TO PICK FROM WITHOUT HAVING TO SHOP ABROAD

BY KATHLEEN BELL

"What do you want for Christmas?" A simple phrase repeated an untold number of times over the holiday season. Obviously the asker expects some kind of material reply, something they can dress up in crinkly paper and slip under the tinsel. But before we start the toboggan run into the 25th, I suggest you take a minute to think about that question: what do you want?

I want the whole merry and bright thing. I want to take the time to go through those same old traditions with my family and I desperately want a moment to spend with old friends. But mostly I want to be able to show the people in my life how important they are to me with some small token of my gratitude. If you're standing in a mall about to buy some perfunctory present that lacks meaning and thought (even if it's expensive and shiny) I need you to put whatever it is down and reboot your heart-drive. Watch a few holiday specials and make sure everything you do this season is in the true spirit – then you can't really go wrong.

And since the good folks here at *SEE* want to contribute to the season, we present to you a few helpful ideas – all from locally owned establishments. Think of the following as suggestions or a (slightly one-sided) brainstorming session. We'll get things warmed up, you have to get them wrapped up.

HELPING OUT

Let's start with a gift everyone will have to buy and everyone dreads: the office Christmas exchange present. Undoubtedly you will end up with some kitsch or a scented candle that's covered in glitter. Instead of contributing to this market of "under $10" schlock, spend those dollars on a local charity. Stick a card in an envelope with a note saying you've donated to the Humane Society, the Youth Emergency Shelter, the Stollery or whatever, "in your name." You've started Christmas out one the right foot and the gift-getter will appreciate not having to truck home more clutter.

SIGNATURE SWEETS

If you work in an office where charity is socially unacceptable and you're still set on gifting a box of chocolates, at the very least make it delicious, non-waxy, locally made chocolate. Stop by Kerstin's Chocolate (10139-112th St.). They have their Signature Chocophilia Bars ($4.75) in all sorts of unique flavours, like Fleur de Sel (chocolate with a dash of salt), orange-pistachio and pumpkin pie. If this is sounding like a solid option and you want to expand the cocoa beyond the office place, try giving spiced drinking chocolate ($18.95) – it's hot chocolate with a little chili mixed in – as a stocking stuffer or go full out with a chocolate tastings ($25 per person and they do parties).

SOMETHING TO WEAR

Moving on to the more substantial, less edible pieces, I'll plug one of my favourites: Meese Clothing. This store (10240-124th St.) is good for friends who prefer their clothing to be sweatshop free with a side of patriotic – everything in this store is designed by Canadian designers. Hence 'meese.' The plural of moose. Get it? While I don't often recommend clothing (sizing can be a tough little mine-field) the soft Salgado Fenwick V-neck T-shirts ($43) are too good not to buy. With sweet sketches of wintery animals covering the front, these T's come in both men's and women's styles and the line is Edmonton-based. The darling hipster in your life will be overwhelmed and looking particularly good, especially if they have a Brave belt ($65-$95) for the shirt to rest above. Leatherworks with lots of bone, pewter and classy stitching is Brave's thing. If you're shopping for the stylish, this is the place to hit up.

SIMPLY ACCESSORIZE

While we are focused on fashion, I should mention Red Ribbon (12505-102nd Ave.). Like I said before, clothing can be tricky. Avoid the hassle by picking up accessories, of which Red Ribbon has many. Check out the countless delicate scarves (one-size-fits all) by Subtle Luxury ($62) or the colourful 'mixed-media' bags by Amy Kathryn ($60-$115). There are selves of distinctive choices and your lovely lady will appreciate that it's not the same old Urban Outfitters look.

FOR THE GUYS

Handbags are great for the ladies but what about the fellas? Guys have been giving their best gals gift baskets for years and I think it's time we return the favour.

But instead of bath bombs and exfoliating scrubs, tie a ridiculous bow around a basket full of beer. Sherbrooke Liquor (11819 St. Albert Trail) can help you here. They have exotic beers of every flavour, including, Pumpkin Pie Spiced Ale, Grandville Island Winter Ale and Van Helsings' All Natural Mouthwash (comes with garlic in the bottom). They have more than 900 different beers ($3-$9 per bottle), so ask for help if you get lost. And if you want to go all out may I suggest doing a whole 12 beers of Christmas theme?

WATER OF LIFE

They say it's going to be a cold winter, so beyond beer you should stock up on hard liquor too. And I'm going to magically show you how to make one stop for both the (wo)man of exquisite taste in you life and the organic-only bark-lover. You ready for this? Vinomania (11452 Jasper Ave.) carries Bruichladdich Organic Scotch Whisky ($85). If you're a fan of whisky you'll know Bruichladdich is a big deal and to have an organic edition they must have jumped aboard the good earth train quite a few years ago. Also try Arran ($85) or Springbank ($109) for a special treat (they don't chill-filter their whisky, but only whisky connoisseurs will care about this).

GADGETS GALORE

And if you're focused on a friend that's not big on libations but is caught up in the foodie fad you're seriously going to want to encourage this. The more food they make/bake the more food you get to eat. Call the Kettle Black (12523-102 Ave.) is your best source for quality cooking implements and they have just recently started stocking the Bodum line of super-bright kitchen tools. The knife holder ($39.95) is particularly neat but there are also juicers, coffee grinders and kettles in fun designs.

JUST FOR FUN

A cautionary note here: when we concentrate to much on items our loved ones "could use" or "need" we forget about what would be fun.

The good people at Happy Harbor comics reminded me of this the other day (another excellent thing about shopping local is great customer service) and as long as you have an idea of your intended recipient's favourite characters/shows/books, like Batman, Buffy or Sideshow Bob Happy Harbor will have a awesome treat for them.

If you have no clue, first, are you sure you're friends and, second try Superman vs. Muhammed Ali ($41.59) for the classic comic book fans or All Star Superman ($103.98). I've been told these are quality choices.

ARTY FARTY

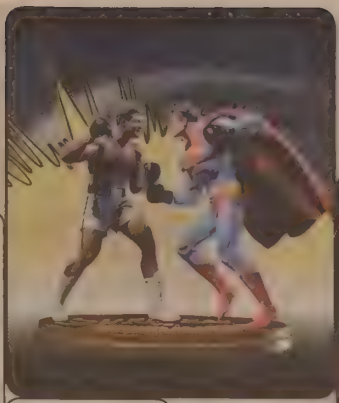
OK, truth time: I'm fresh out of segues. So I'm going to jump right into suggesting shopping at the University of Alberta's Department of Art & Design Art Sale and Auction (Friday, Dec. 3 at the Telus Centre on campus). This is a great place to pick up original art for way less than you'd spend in regular gallery (pieces tend to go for $25 and up). And most of the art is really exciting too. I know you and your significant other are growing up – time to get rid of the band posters. Buy something gorgeous or dark or convoluted and make it yours.

GREAT OUTDOORS

Last, but as always, certainly not least, try to gift yourself those moments with the people you love. Fort Edmonton Park's Christmas Reflections program ($16 per person) could alternately serve as a fun night out with nieces and nephews or a romantic date set in wintery wonderland. Running from Dec. 10-23 there's sleigh rides, hot chocolate, Christmas crafts and all the twinkling charm of Fort Edmonton Park frosted in snow.

That's is for us here at *SEE*. Now, like always, it's up to you. Good luck and keep your eyes on the prize (i.e. a happy holiday season).

Merry Christmas kids!



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COLUMN · Q AND A

Does It Pay To Turn Back The Thermostat?

THE STRAIGHT DOPE · CECIL ADAMS

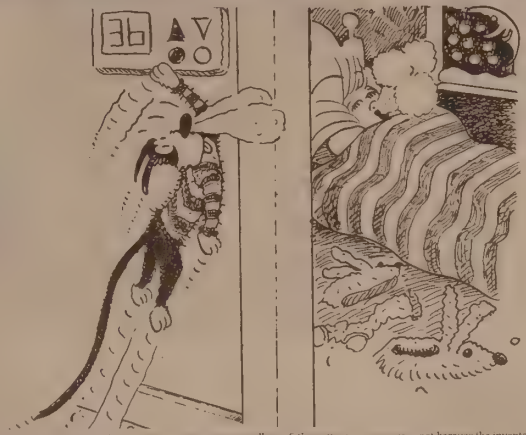
A LITTLE THERMOSTAT KNOW-HOW WILL SAVE YOU MONEY

Which scenario uses less energy in home heating, and thus saves more money (a) before going to bed, turning the thermostat down from 20 C to 15 C, then turning it up again in the morning, or (b) leaving it at 20 C all night? (Assume the outside temperature rises to 7 C in the day and drops to -4 C at night.) I always believed (a) would use less energy, but people tell me that (b) uses less because reheating the house to 68 in the morning uses more energy than keeping it at that temperature all night. This doesn't make sense to me, but I defer to your wisdom.

Bill Morrison, Ladysmith, British Columbia

Ah, yes, Ladysmith, B.C., justly famous as the birthplace of Pamela Anderson. (Pam left long ago, of course, evidently repelled by her country men's inadequate understanding of efficient furnace operation. Thanks to you, Bill, she won't need to stay away much longer. The blue flame of enlightenment is about to ignite.)

Lowering your thermostat during times when you need heat less (e.g., when you're asleep or out of the house) is called thermostat setback; the equivalent practice in summer time is thermostat setup. In theory, thermostat setback and setup will almost always save energy, based on the following simple principle of heat transfer: the rate of heat loss (or gain) is primarily a function of the difference in temperature between two objects, such as your house and the surrounding air. In the winter, the colder your house is allowed to get, the slower it loses heat. Although your heater may run for a while during the recovery period when it's bringing the house back up to temperature, you still use less energy than you would keeping the house at a constant temperature around the clock.



A lot of people, not just in Ladysmith, don't get this – in fact, they're baffled by the entire subject of thermostats. One researcher estimated in 1986 that as much as half the population subscribes to what he called "valve theory," namely the belief that the thermostat functions like a gas pedal: the higher you set it, the hotter your furnace runs. In reality, most furnaces pump out heat at the same rate regardless of the setting; they just cycle on and off as needed to keep the house at whatever temp the thermostat dictates.

Failing to grasp the subtleties of home heating can be expensive. At one time the U.S. Department of Energy was urging Americans to install programmable thermostats, which can be set to automatically turn the heat down when it's not needed. These devices were thought to generate savings of 10 to 30 per cent, and close to half of U.S. homes now have them. In 2006, though, the DOE stopped pushing the thermostats, which aren't cheap, after multiple studies showed the actual savings was zero – not because the inventors hadn't understood the laws of physics, but because consumers didn't use the things right. They couldn't figure out how to program the thermostats, didn't believe they'd work and so didn't bother, set the temperature higher during the day and thereby cancelled out the savings from the setback at night, and so on.

Used correctly, however, programmable thermostats indisputably work, and so does setting back the thermostat manually, provided you do it systematically. My indefatigable assistant Una conducted a long-term research project in which she installed a programmable thermostat in her house, aggressively dialed back the nighttime setting for winter, then tracked her energy use for three years, using data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to correct for outdoor temperature differences before and after installation. Result: she saved about 28 per cent on her winter gas bill, enough to recover the thermostat's $120 cost in three months.

Granted, Una's situation was unusual:

- Her preferred wintertime thermostat setting had long been a toasty 24 C.
- She set the overnight temperature on the new thermostat all the way down to 10 C.
- Her house is older, with poor windows and Eisenhower-era insulation and may fairly be described as an energy sieve. (Since a well-insulated house loses less heat to start with, any savings due to setting back the thermostat are likely to be modest.)

What kind of savings are more typical? Tough call due to wide variation in houses, heating systems, climate, and energy costs. A study of two identical Canadian test houses showed an 11-degree setback overnight and during work hours generated a 13 per cent savings in gas and a two per cent savings in electricity (the furnace blower ran less). My guess is that's better than most people will get. A U.S. study of 2,658 gas-heated homes using programmable thermostats found a six per cent reduction in energy use.

Still, you ought to see some savings. If not, various confounding factors could be in play, one of which may be that you're a knucklehead. You won't know till you try. Good luck.

Questions to straightdope.com

> I FIND IT INSPIRING BECAUSE I THINK **CONTRAST AND CONTRADICTION** ARE INTEGRAL PARTS OF LOVE

David Vertesi plays the Haven on Thursday, Dec. 2 | PHOTO: Courtesy

HEY OCEAN!'S DAVID VERTESI MAPS THE TRAILS OF LOVE AND LOVE'S LOSS ON HIS SOLO DEBUT

DAVID VERTESI
With Aidan Knight
Haven Social Club
Thursday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: $10 in advance (www.yegtive.ca), $12 at the door

BY KYLE MULLIN

You can hear it every time your aching heart swells and contracts – the contradictions that David Vertesi revels in, the beat that drives his songs and in turn makes his own pulse throb all the more. The Hey Ocean! bassist has dubbed his solo debut *Cardiography*, based on the cardiograph devices that doctors use to monitor heart movements – a title that captures the push and pull between logical science and the organ that symbolizes our spirit and soul.

"I find it inspiring because I think contrast and contradiction are integral parts of love," Vertesi says of the album's title and theme. "It's a constant battle between the emotional self and the logical self, what I want versus what's good for me, pure joy followed by deep depression. I felt like in order to make [the album] truly about love, it needed to have those contradictions ... cardiography, technically meaning 'heart writing' seemed to fit."

It's a whole new method for Vertesi's music making – his broken heart pulsing the blood through his wounds, a crimson ink for him to write with in order to help those gashes scab over. It makes for yet another contrast in his life, a batch of far more subdued tunes than the ones he helped create as a member of Hey Ocean! alongside front woman flutist Ashleigh Ball and guitarist David Beckingham. *Cardiography* is by no means a staggering departure, sharing much of gentle lilting tones that made his band's songs so sweetly fetching. But the celebratory vibes of much of the trio's most famous work – from the hearty indie house party standard "Terribly Stable" to the smoothly swaggering "A Song About California" – are mostly absent on Vertesi's solo debut.

"The record follows my journey falling in and out of love, and was in some ways an attempt to make sense of it all as it was happening," Vertesi says of *Cardiography*, before chuckling softly. "When I put it like that it sounds pretty trite, but I suppose I was really just writing about my life."

If Hey Ocean!'s rhythms were meant to be a party's beacon, then *Cardiography* is the inevitable hangover's remedy – an album soaked with synths that soothe like a dose of Ambien and pulse like a lulling, ambient light.

Vertesi's lyrics follow suit – directly earnest turns of phrase about the contradictions that grip him like: "Some say love is all it takes, some say love is just one big mistake," on the albums' lead track, "Mountainside." The last key ingredient on that song is critical darling Hannah Georgas' shrill, instantly recognizable, backing vocals. Vertesi says the budding songstress and London Ontario rap Laurette Shad K (who was featured on the Hey Ocean! song "Vagabond"), are his favourite musical cohorts.

"I could write pages about either of them, they are two of my closest friends and I find them inspiring as people as well as artists," Vertesi says of Shad and Georgas. "Both of them are honest and intelligent writers, love all kinds of music, and are always learning and expanding their scope as artists. In short, they're the kind of artists I want to be."

Shad says the feeling is more than mutual.

"Dave's just got a tremendous enthusiasm for all kinds of music. I love working with him because of that," the rapper says of Vertesi. "He's a really solid musician who can focus really well in the studio or in rehearsals and work hard. He's always excited to write and play, he's got a great spirit in that way."

That tenacious spirit is most apparent when Vertesi goes it alone on *Cardiography* with songs like "All Night, All Night, All Night," that feature no guest spots or backing vocalists, only the songwriter and his most vivid memories. On that particular song his inspiration would seem obvious, especially with lines like "My father walks down the stairs, it's 5 a.m. Dark as the suit that he wears, and where's his son been?" But of course, Vertesi said that song contains far more contrast than it seems.

"It's funny that a lot of people have asked me about my father in relation to this song because it's not about my father at all."

"It's actually about young love, but the image of my dad walking down the stairs in the morning really seems to hit home," Vertesi says of "All Night." "I like to think that, when people choose that interpretation of the song, it says more about their relationship with their own father than it does about mine with my dad. It's kind of them saying, 'I love my dad too,' and that's awesome."

It's a song meant to be so personal that it becomes universal, yet another contradiction to spark Vertesi's imagination. And yet no matter how hard he tries, he has yet to truly capture the source of that spark – the more sense he tries to make of those push-and-pull contradictions, the more his lyrics merely reflect that beguiled state's confusion.

That aching sentiment is all to clear on *Cadiography*'s sparsest song, "Heart's Don't Break, People Do", where a few threadbare guitar notes are Vertesi's only backdrop as he blatantly croons "With lonely hearts, and foolish pride, it makes no difference to be defined. It's just the way we talk about when love runs out."

Those lyrics hinge not only on heartbreak, but on Vertesi's inability to completely capture that feeling in the tune – a pursuit that he'll continue to pour his all into.

"That's a hard song to sing for me because it's extremely personal," he says of "Hearts Don't Break, People Do." "It's meant to highlight that contrast between emotion and logic ... I think most people will agree that love is rarely logical, and as such I find that when you really try to make sense of heartbreak you always get stuck on the semantics."

CADENCE WEAPON
TRON LEGACY: THE MIXTAPE

Banging this album on your sleds instead of our Jeeps, as Roland Pemberton puts it to us here, will have to do. The downloadable mixtape is late, he tells us, but let's recall he's been busy making connections being Edmonton's official poet laureate in Montreal and outward, which unless you're extremely fucking stupid you realize is a lot better for the city than having him stuck here waving in the Southgate food court under a purple banner. Out there in elder Canada, he's a missionary, letting cultural activists know our part of the world makes unexpected (by them) political decisions.

If you think I'm being needlessly political, there's a tone of advocacy running through this ridiculously-named album, where Pemberton raps over Arcade Fire and Bon Iver – a warmup for the upcoming *Roquentin*, inspired by Sartre's *La Nausée* (out in with a big band in spring). The informal, conversational nature of this franchise-meta-joke experiment allows Pemberton to advertise the new work, even his Twitter account but overall he mixes a (strangely) energetically passive style of rapping with some thoughtful points about the world. And lots of discussion of Edmonton, down to an argument against the ECCA's sloppy fight to protect their extremely limited interests. But my favourite thing is the humour. Lines like "I eat my rider, got cheese for a week" made me laugh out loud, and the song about guest lists – "On with a +1" – tells the tale of an entitled Seattle backstager "acting like a monkey without a fucking barrel." Pemberton wishing people would figure out there's no difference between the sides of a stage except bullshit status.

Speaking of which, kudos to Rollie for taking a public shot at that snobby piece in *Adbusters* which was all too cool in its indictment of hipsters. They lost a lot of us with that shit. Song's got a great beat, too. On one called "The Weedman," Mr Weapon slams someone's rep by accusing him of always picking the same character in Street Fighter. And it's this level of personal – not just throwing words around for the sake of rhyming – we've always loved about our little butter tiger, who rates his b-ball skills as being in the "D-Leagues."

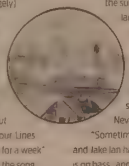
Two-and-a-half months of summer, he stresses, "the rest of the year is spent rapping – that's what we do." These are not the feelings of an Edmontoner?

★★★★½

THE DEPRESSION
WORLD GONE MAD

The Old Wives' Liam Harvey Oswald keeps the ghost of circle-dancing punk glowing with this high-aiming yet pleasant tale of lost friends and dreams that went too far. Colleen Brown accompanies Oswald's oddly uplifting laments just below the surface – good production by Ian Martin, her award-winning- and-sometimes-robbed voice could quite easily overpower the whole thing, but we're here for Oswald's perspective as a beat-up loser (note song titles "Best Thing That Never Happened," "Hollow Shell," "Sometimes You Wanna Die"). Ryan Dix and Jake Ian handle guitars, Braden Sustrik is on bass, and Darren Chewka drumming. The main charm of this one is its lived-in simplicity – mosh-pit cheerfulness with a Springsteen ethic, gospel backups, deliberate piano, weepy Hammond and so on, which David Shepherd has a lot to do with. Pay attention to this band.

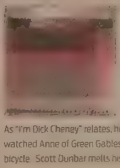
★★★★½



KANYE WEST
My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy
(Roc-A-Fella)
★★★★★

After an incumbent fallout with the media masses, hip hop's most vainglorious artist returns with *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*. Rza produced opener "Dark Fantasy" features downtempo piano, Mike Oldfield samples and lyrical gold such as "Too many Urkels on your teamy/ that's why your Wins-low." Autocratic anthem "Power" recounts some of Kanye's less favorable moments of the past few years and addresses the public criticism he has received. I was the obamanation of Obama's nation." "Monster" is unapologetic in it's delivery with verses dropped by Rick Ross, Nicki Minaj, and Jay Z, all the while bookended by a soulful guest spot by Bon Iver. With jarring production and a shameless chorus "Runaway" sees Kanye at his most honest and impenitent. Bon Iver's auto-tune heavy "Woods" provides the background for "Lost In The World", an upbeat voyage that will be presumably closing festival shows for years to come. An album that is as dark and egotistical as it is brilliant and self-deprecating; definitely worth the wait.

ANDY COOKSON



SCOTT DUNBAR
Philosophies of a Moth Vol. 3: Two Years to Live
(Independent)
★★★½

W Don't judge a book by its cover – the clothes don't make the man... I know these things. I also know that I picked up Scott Dunbar's newest release entirely because the cover is gorgeous. Turns out his mother sews, the album sleeves from fabric scraps. Philosophies of a Moth Vol. 3 is an elegantly clothed two-CD set of 24 songs from Canada's most soulful one man band. Who is Scott Dunbar? As "I'm Dick Cheney" relates, he's brash and hopeful Robin Hood to corporate America's Prince John. Or he's the boy next door who watched Anne of Green Gables with you and wondered "how other boys could win your heart" ("Amy M."). And he really loves his bicycle. Scott Dunbar melts his accordion and pounds his suitcase kick drum with enough grit and ecstasy to transport you along the Canadian highways that his songs and his suitcase have travelled.

JEN HOYER

KID CUDI
Man On The Moon II: The Legend Of Mr. Rager
(GOOD/ WIDE/ UNIVERSAL MOTOWN)
★★★½

Hip hop's renaissance man Kid Cudi returns with another chapter in his concept album series with *Man On The Moon II: The Legend Of Mr. Rager*. Taking a darker turn from where *The End Of Day* left off, Cudi favours the bleak and despondent on his latest effort, leaning on guttural spacey beats rather than boom-bap of '90s hip hop. Opener "Scott Mescudi Vs. The World" sets the stage with Cee-Lo Green's buttery voice dripping past the low hum of electro beats. On "Marijuana", a love song to an inanimate muse, Cudi pours his art out just long enough for the track to hit the 4:20 mark. Disappointingly weak cast against the overall breadth of the album. "Erase Me" has all the makings of an '80s hair metal ballad. "Maniac" is the album highlight, uniquely layered in production, Cudi shows the depth of his credibility by enlisting the help of indie darling St. Vincent and ex-Def Jax emcee Cage. In the end *The Legend Of Mr Rager* is a dark, twisted psychedelic journey, definitely poised to become a cult classic.

ANDY COOKSON

THE VASELINES
Sex With An X
(Sub/Pop)
★★★½

One could hardly accuse The Vaselines of being ground-breaking, despite their influence on modern rock music. Most notably during grunge-era Sub Pop, culminating in no fewer than three cover songs from Nirvana. Since then, not much has changed. Sure, The Vaselines may be a little bit older, and may have put on a few pounds around the middle, but the songs are as good as ever. Despite the occasional throwaway track, Eugene Kelly and Frances McKee have produced a capable successor to the 20 years previous *Dum Dum*. Even two decades later, we find the band in similar musical territory, retaining the to-the-point melodies and songwriting that made Kurt Cobain such a huge fan to begin with. Though it probably won't change your life, *Sex With An X* remains an entertaining release and a fine follow-up for one of the least prolific bands of our time.

AARON MARKO

THE FLOWERS OF HELL
O
(Optical Sound)
★★★½

O is not music, it is more like an experience that is without compare. Not in a good or bad way, just in the fact that this is unique to itself. A reference in the album cover suggests that this can be called "Absolute" music (A German idea from the 1880's); music with no lyrics or references to any story or specific image- music which simply 'is'. What it 'simply is' is ambient sound and hard as rate. It is unique there is no doubt and the CD comes with a DVD of a live performance in case you want to watch 10 people sit in a circle and try their best to avoid any hint of melody. This is the first time I have experienced 45 minutes of tones and sound with no order or point. So, as far as I know this might be a masterpiece, but you also might have to be a sound-wave to appreciate it.

NATHAN USHER

INDIE • PREVIEW

Bermuda, Bahama, Come On Pretty Mama

AN ISLAND IN THE SUN IS THE ESCAPE WE ALL DESPERATELY WANT — BAHAMAS WILL PROVIDE SUCH A GETAWAY

BAHAMAS
With Doug Bailey
The ARTery (9535 Jasper Ave.)
Friday, Dec. 3
Tickets: $12 in advance at Blackbyrd, Listen and www.foundationconcerts.com

BY ROBIN SCHROFFEL

Crossing the country with a winter coat and 4WD, Bahamas is on his way to brighten up chilly December. Sure, the Toronto musician is no sunshine and palm trees, but his soft, dreamy indie rock tunes carry a hint of the exotic and make for a beautiful place to get lost in.

After years of collaborating with artists such as Feist and Jason Collett, Afie Jurvanen set off to explore his own songs along with drummer Jason Tait of the Weakerthans.

And while his chosen alias may be somewhat synonymous with tropical bliss, the West Indies weren't exactly on the singer/guitarist's mind.

"I never really intended to conjure up any images of island life," Jurvanen says. "Some people have and it's kind of nice. It's a nice word to say — if it brings any sort of comfort when it's really cold outside, that's a nice way to introduce people to the music too."

Afie Jurvanen a.k.a. Bahamas may not be a beach boy, but his alias might remind you of that. | PHOTO: SUPPLIED

It wasn't even until debut album *Pink Strat* was nearly finished that the name Bahamas came into play.

"When we were done recording the first album, I had a shortlist of names I thought were kind of cool," says Jurvanen. "That one fit the tone and the vibe of the recording and the more that I thought about it, it just sort of fit the way I am. I feel like I travel at a slower pace than everyone else does anyway, and finding some name to fit that was important."

Making the decision to pursue his own music career was a big step for the hired gun coming off years on the road as a part of Feist's band.

"It was a little scary just because I was really comfortable in that position of supporting other peoples' careers — it's a lot of fun and it's not all that much responsibility — but at the same time I wanted to do something different."

Since the release of *Pink Strat* a year and a half ago, Bahamas has toured practically constantly, opening for Wilco, Amy Millan, Jason Collett and Zeus. The present mid-winter cross-Canada tour is a little different. It's Bahamas' first headlines, and theatres, community halls and churches make up the majority of the venues.

"I really like singing quiet songs and I really like exploring all that stuff that you can only sort of get out of an instrument when you treat it delicately, whether it's your voice or a drum or a guitar whatever. That's pretty tough to do in a bar with a party vibe," explains Jurvanen.

The choice has paid off, he says. "People just kind of show up and they're ready to listen and are engaged in the show in a very different way than when it's in the bar and it's party time."

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It's All Good In The Hulud

It's All Love for Shai Hulud who bring their legendary hardcore to The Avenue Theatre on Thursday, Dec. 2 | PHOTO SUPPLIED

HARDCORE • PREVIEW

THEIR JUMP TO A NEW LABEL MIGHT HAVE CAUSED A BIT OF A STIR, BUT SHAI HULUD HAS STAYED TRUE TO THEIR ROOTS

SHAI HULUD
With Lionheart, Counterparts, Hundredth, Withdrawal, and As Gold As Lions
Avenue Theatre (9030-118th Ave.)
Thursday, Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m.

BY CHRISTOPHER SCHIEMAN

When most bands from the States head north to tour Canada, they come prepared for the worst. Unfortunately, this isn't the case for Matt Fox, guitarist and founding member of the metalcore predecessors Shai Hulud.

"I'll be more stoked for the Edmonton show if the weather's good," Fox jokes after hearing about the minus 35-degree temperatures Edmonton has been experiencing. "I didn't bring a proper coat. But we've always been partial to Canadian tours. We have a lot of friends and Edmonton has always been receptive to us."

The Pompano Beach, Fla., native is no stranger to touring the great white north since forming the band in 1995. This time around, Fox seems exceptionally excited about the tour's line-up.

"We toured with Lionheart earlier this year and we became really good friends with them. We requested them specifically to be on this tour," Fox explains about his current tour counterparts. "Musically, we're kindred spirits with Hundredth, we play the same style of melodic metalcore. And Counterparts is a Canadian band on the heavier side with a lot of really big breakdowns. All the other bands are fantastic. I haven't been

SHAI cont'd on p. 17

COLLAB • PREVIEW

Jazzy Holidays

JAZZ STANDARDS DON BERNER

EJO+PRO CORO = CHRISTMAS TIDINGS

Have yourself a jazzy little Christmas with Pro Coro and the EJO! Pro Coro is of course Edmonton's premiere professional choral ensemble and the EJO is of course the Edmonton Jazz Orchestra, Edmonton's jazz answer to the ESO.

They team up for what should be a spectacular show at the Winspear Centre Dec. 12 at 2:30 p.m. performing Nils Lindberg's "Christmas Cantata." Kent Sangster, director of the EJO and not incidentally also director of the EJJF, stated "Trent Worthington [Pro Coro's director] found one of the few really very good quality Christmas pieces for big band and choir."

In the past Sangster has shied away from Christmas-themed shows but as he uncovers more repertoire he feels that "something like the Ellington Nutcracker might be good in the future; it's in part a matter of timing."

Sangster continues, "I really like the idea of future collaborations. It's really a proper fit between two ensembles whose ideals are similar and push the level of ensembles in this city to a professional level. In part, future performances are a matter of money – there are costs to every show and right now the focus needs to be on further subsidizing the ensemble." (So if there are any rich philanthropists reading this and looking for a good cause take note!)

When speaking of future collaborations Kent is not strictly referring EJO and Pro Coro, the band has previously performed with the likes of Hillario Duran, Lew Tabackin, and Carol Welsman.

"What would be ideal at some point would be to be able to get someone like Maria Schneider, someone really known for their compositions, and have them come in and workshop the band for 3 or 4 days straight leading up to a performance," says Sangster. "It would also be nice if we could get someone like Tommy Banks, who's renowned for being a very fine band leader and arranger, to actually compose a piece of original music for the group."

Tickets for the event are $39-49 and can be obtained at the Winspear. A smaller ensemble featuring members of the EJO are following up this performance with an appearance at the Ice on Whyte festival in the New Year. Ice on Whyte takes place Jan. 13 to 23.

In other jazz happenings: the Yardbird closes for Christmas on Dec. 11 with blues vocalist Shirley Johnson. Highlights this week: Tim Mulligan quartet at the regular Tuesday night jam session Dec. 7. It isn't often you get to hear an Edmonton based jazz vibes player! Chilis, The Blue Pear, and the Blue Chair all continue their jazz series. Dec. 9 features a 7:30 performance at the Blue Chair by Edmonton vocal favourite Rhonda Withnell, while Audrey Ochoa appears at the Blue Pear Dec. 12 at 8 p.m.

Merry Christmas, over and out!

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SKINNY AND THE TIPZ • GREY CUP?

The Allure Of A Lyve Show

WILDLIFE

HAPPY REUNIONS AND SAD DEPARTURES ADORN THIS WEEK'S 701 WORDS

One thing a fair bit more punk rock than thrashing around onstage complaining about your parents actually living through the process of having a baby eat its way out of your vagina, and yet still maintaining the will and venom to rock. It's tough, understandably impossible for most – and how-the-fuck-would-I-know ■ I have ears and eyes and read and listen and I even admit tend to drift off when the subject repeats of how kids snatch it all away without mercy ("But you'll probably never understand but I'll tell you again anyway because it's nice to talk to an actual ADULT").

But let ME say something again, mothers. I feel for you as Ron Sexsmith feels for the driver. So then I stand there (Walking Dead pose), and watch Andrea – a.k.a. Penny Dreadful, pit boss of the Skinny – and I gets to wondering. Wondering if there isn't some way to make a deal, or maybe just beg her not to officially retire the band, not to sell her instrument, but maybe just play once a year or whatever it takes. It's a deal I want to make with too many mothers-in-Carbonite to stop with the child-blaming, because we will wait. So that when the time comes, all those little babies who supposedly handbraked these brilliant women from making art and smoking too much and laughing in ways they only now hear from said beautiful babies, when the time comes and these babies do grow up, they could maybe learn a happier lesson.

Namely, you actually only decide to grow old. And that there are plenty of perfectly thriving and happy examples of people who don't buy the bullshit from, I'm guessing, their own mothers who were never going to do anything interesting anyway, so decided to blame their daughters for shutting the fucking idea factory down.

And what I meant by the previous 309 words ■ it was a fucking hell of a good show, the Skinny reunion. Motorjoan is fine and dandy in her burlesque thing, but a sexy kickline cannot compete with the thousand-foot molten lion of metal she became the other night. Gravy's drumming as always smashing everything into atoms. And the funniest thing is how simultaneously shy and confident these growlers seemed, having put up with so much crap, especially from an advent calendar of dorks, but suddenly up there again, bigger than all that shit. Respect, you guys. I hope it ain't over. Seriously, is Taco Time paying you *that* well?

A reformed Frosted Tipz ruled, too, but I've gone on too long and there pretty much has to be another swing at that "event" with Van Keeken as planned, the whole lusty family together. Roz Christian was bold as a boner especially filling in for those large and rabid songs which got dropped on her last minute, and for now we all wish Amy a speedy return to the shot bar.

Meanwhile, as chill as most of us are with Iron Horse's derailing thanks to its idiot clientele, it's sad to note the ambitious Lyve on Whyte is dead. It must be said, any reduction of music venues in this city ■ a shit-and-herring sandwich.

Lyve had too visible a security presence for its own good, as a casual-evening venue, but the layout was one of those simple boxes I love, with a nice, wide stage at the end.

Jay Sparrow, artist and part of the management at Lyve, comments: "Every weekend night there were thousands of people walking by.

MORE BASEMENT GIGS [illegible]
DARK, DUTTY [illegible]

SHAI (cont'd from p. 16)

on a tour in a long time where all the bands get along this great."

Fox has been a touring machine with Shai Hulud since its humble beginnings, despite its revolving door of close to 25 ex-members, but he doesn't find a lot of differences between touring now and touring back in Shai Hulud's supposed heyday in the late '90s.

"We were new and fresh back then, so we had the hype machine backing us up. Now, we're mainly playing to the loyals," Fox observes about the progress in his career. "But, we're still broke, we still tour in a crappy, taped together van, and we never got so huge that touring has ever changed for us. There's this misconception that at one point, we were playing to hundreds of people every night. We've always been a hardcore band playing in basements for the die-hards."

As many loyals and die-hards that there are still going to the shows, Shai Hulud experienced a great deal of criticism from some of its fans when the band made the jump from hardcore label Revelation Records to Metal Blade Records.

"A lot of people felt negative about Metal Blade. There's something elitist about hardcore. 'Oh, I don't like metal, I like hardcore,'" Fox comments about some of the things he's heard. "And there was this thing with some of the fans saying 'Oh, now these guys are a metal band' but that's clearly not the case. I was also receiving messages that said 'Congratulations of releasing your best album,' talking about *Misanthropy Pure*."

Misanthropy Pure, Shai Hulud's Metal Blade debut in 2008, has received praise and flack from fans and critics alike, but, the most questioned aspect to this album is the re-recording of the essential Shai Hulud song ["Set Your Body Ablaze"] is a staple song that I think suffered because it was on such a random release. We would play it live, expecting the crowd to go nuts, and no one would react to it," Fox explains about this crucial track. "We wanted to re-record it with the care and precision we thought it deserved.

"A lot of fans weren't happy with it in the same way I wasn't happy when George Lucas revamped Star Wars. But to me, it made perfect sense."

Despite fan queries and constant member changes, Shai Hulud still presses on spreading its message of misanthropy and hope no matter where its members are.

"I'm in a McDonalds right now, and some old dude just shamelessly spit on the floor," Fox fittingly concludes. "Talk about misanthropy pure."

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FILM • PREVIEW

The Unexpected RomCom

This romantic comedy is a family affair, centred around a Greek/German restaurateur and his girlfriend who's moving to Shanghai. | SUPPLIED

MAINSTREAM ROMANTIC COMEDIES COULD LEARN A LOT FROM THIS GERMAN GEM

SOUL KITCHEN
Metro Cinema, Dec. 3-7
★★★½ ☆

BY BARRY HAMMOND

One of the reasons the current crop of Hollywood romantic comedies feel so unsatisfying is because they've become so formulaic there's no surprises left. We know from the first frame who the hero/heroine is and, though they might have a rough ride during the course of the movie, they're going to get the girl/boy by the end. They could learn a thing or two from the charming German film, *Soul Kitchen*, directed by Fatih Akin, which runs for the next five days ■ the Metro Cinema.

For the first 20 minutes or half hour we're not sure who the hero is and whether the film is going to be a drama, a comedy, a crime thriller, a kitchen-sink-slice-of-life, or maybe something more experimental.

Only gradually do the characters and plot emerge in what feels to the audience like an engaging journey of exploration rather than a finely calculated emotional con job.

Greek/German restaurant owner Zinos Kazantsakis (Adam Bousdoukos) is having trouble, both with his restaurant, a run-of-the-mill greasy spoon type of place and his relationship with his girlfriend Nadine (Pheline Roggan), who's moving to Shanghai for her job as a foreign correspondent.

During a family dinner with Nadine's bossy granny he sees an eccentric and bad-tempered chef get fired and decides on a whim to give him a job.

He also gives a job to his brother, Illias (Moritz Bleibtreu), who's on semi-release from prison. He can't really afford either man, especially as we soon discover the working-class clientele despise the new chef's food and an old school friend, Neumann (Wotan Wilke Möhring), now a real estate speculator who he runs into by chance, decides to put him out of business and buy the property to spite another speculator.

His brother isn't trustworthy and spends most of his time gambling with the staff and his cronies and putting the make on the waitress. Zinos tries to find someone else to manage the business so he can get to Shanghai and appease his demanding girlfriend as their internet video sessions aren't cutting it.

Things get complicated when he gets a herniated disc moving a dishwasher and avoids conventional medical treatment because he has no health insurance.

A band, whom he lets rehearse in the space, bring in different clientele but also heavy partying with the staff. Health inspectors and tax collectors sent by Neumann are also closing in.

Unlike a Hollywood film, the characters (or the story for that matter) aren't micro-managed to either win the audience's affection or to be villains. Neither they nor the film pander to audience expectations. They are what they are and the audience can like them or not as they please. Moritz Bleibtreu, who western audiences will remember vividly from his role as Lola's boyfriend, Manni, in *Run, Lola, Run* (1998) and Spielberg's *Munich* (2005) ■ particularly good as the black-sheep brother. Adam Bousdoukos makes an effective, bumbling, dorkish and smelly, but ultimately likable, hero (but not in as calculated a fashion as someone like Adam Sandler). The three actresses Pheline Roggan, Anna Bederke, and Dorka Gryllus, who play the women are all complex and appealing. Also entertaining ■ a cameo from Udo Kier (famous for Warhol's *Blood For Dracula* and *Flesh For Frankenstein* films in the 70's and later such fare as *My Own Private Idaho* in the nineties) as a powerful businessman.

Even the soundtrack (which in America would be a money-grabbing amalgam of Atlantic Records and Motown soul) is charmingly European and eccentric. It expands our notions of what soul music is and can be and works great with the film, which turns out to be about finding love, reconciling with your brother, and becoming a chef. Not that we realize any of that until the very end.

ONE OF THE REASONS THE CURRENT CROP OF HOLLYWOOD ROMANTIC COMEDIES FEEL SO UNSATISFYING IS BECAUSE THEY'VE BECOME SO FORMULAIC. THERE'S NO SURPRISES LEFT. THEY COULD LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM 'SOUL KITCHEN', WHICH FEELS LIKE AN ENGAGING JOURNEY RATHER THAN AN EMOTIONAL CON JOB.

Local Theatre Becomes Film

A popular play, researched and written by local students, has been transformed into a film which premiers this weekend. | PHOTO: SUPPLIED

MULTI-YOUTH PRODUCTIONS' 'WASTED ANGELS' HAS ALREADY BEEN PERFORMED TO 40,000 PEOPLE

BY VICKIE LALIOTIS

Wasted Angels, written by youth, for youth, focuses on the devastating effects of crystal meth addiction and how it can unravel one's world down to the core. Recounting the tale of Kyle, a popular teen who loses everything due to his addiction, *Wasted Angels* packs a powerful message while providing insight into the nature of this destructive drug. The popular musical by Alberta teens will premiere as a film and behind-the-scenes documentary on Dec. 2 at Parkland Cinema 7 in Spruce Grove.

What is truly impressive here, however, is the dedication and thoroughness by which these young people created *Wasted Angels*. "The play was completely researched and written by the [acting] troop themselves," director Carol Murray-Gilchrist says. "They talked to meth addicts themselves, families of meth addicts themselves, and even RCMP officers."

What they discovered through their extensive research and through feedback from their performances was that a certain universality exists with this addiction. "The teens found that the course of crystal meth addiction is similar and that many people affected by it [either directly or indirectly] related to the performance," Murray-Gilchrist says. *Wasted Angels* has been performed for more than 40,000 people across Alberta since its inception in 2005, connecting to a wide and diverse audience.

The acting group, known as Multi-Youth Productions (MYP), first formed 19 years ago and is still going strong. It is comprised of 11 to 19-year-olds specializing in creating and performing original theatrical productions for schools, conferences, and public audiences alike. The group is made up of about 25 youths from Spruce Grove, Stony Plain and the surrounding area who all have a desire to incite change in the world around them.

Using theatre as a platform, MYP strives to bring awareness to social issues while promoting healthy lifestyle choices and decision making to their peers. In fact, their slogan is "changing the world one performance at a time."

The documentary chronicles the experiences of the teens as they rehearse and tour throughout Alberta, "capturing their process, in Murray-Gilchrist's words." It illustrates the performing arts' ability to impact viewers, inspiring both youth performers and youth audiences to become active and engaged citizens of the world.

"Anyone can talk to a classroom of kids," Murray-Gilchrist says, "but between the power of the theatre and having youth presenting to other youth, more power is brought to the message."

Yet MYP is not only concerned with the power of their message but with their credibility as well. To this effect, they have forged partnerships with many provincial ministries and organizations such as Alberta Children's Services, Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, bullying.org, Alberta Alcohol Abuse Commission, Alberta Justice and Alberta Agriculture. And with past performances at the Edmonton Fringe Festival, the Citadel Theatre's Teen and Children's Festival and the Theatre Network's Festival of the Next Generation under their belts, MYP certainly is an impressive group.

This is a great accomplishment for these kids, and it has garnered so much attention," Murray-Gilchrist says. "Teens get a bad rap sometimes but what they can accomplish is extraordinary.

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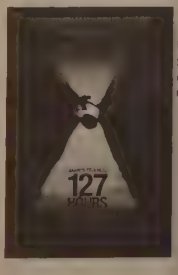

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Rushdie's Ironic Inspiration

INFINITE LIVES DARREN ZENKO

FICTION INSPIRED BY GAMING: NOW THAT'S NOVEL!

Video games are more than simply the youngest child in the family of human arts. They're like the surprise baby that comes along when their older siblings are already in college, a junior Muse living in a basement room with Terpsichore's *Saturday Night Fever* poster still on the wall and Calliope's well-thumbed copy of *Fear of Flying* hidden under the bed. As such, she has a lot of hero worship in her, and a bit of recognition from one of her older sisters sets her all aglow.

And so, the wonderful headline: "Salman Rushdie's New Book Inspired by Video Games!" For the readers of the literary and book-review pages – and no less for the editors of same – that's an irresistable man-bites-dog hook. "OK ... now *this* I have to hear." For gamers and the gaming press, it's a precious scrap of validation, the big-time literary hero coming right out – after previously dissing games as "rubbish" – admitting that not only is he down with the bleep-blorp, but that he's given his world of fantasy and fable the Scott Pilgrim treatment, complete with extra lives and save points. Swoon!

I'm a little skeptical, myself; I get more than a whiff of calculated marketing off the whole idea, a smart fellow with a great instinct for global culture stoking up his book with a bit of pop heat. Because, really, to say that *Luka* and the *Fire of Life* (or any other narrative work, for that matter) is inspired by the structure of video games is a little disingenuous, since the "structure of video games" is the structure of myth and fable anyway. *Call, Quest, Change, Return* ... in interviews, Rushide's just rhetorically find-replaced *Lara Croft* for *Gilgamesh*. A fairy-tale actually inspired by video games would be something else entirely.

The wise old man gazed at the young hero through the flickering flames of the brazier. "A great evil assails this land, child, and it has fallen to you to stop it! You must gather together the four Lost Orbs!"

The young man rubbed absently at the strange birthmark that marked him as a Hero and considered his dialogue choices before responding, though he knew refusal of the burden of Prophecy was impossible. "All right, then. Tell me what I must do."

"Ah! So eager!" The sage's eyes twinkled as his lips moved slightly out of synch with his words. "I will tell you in good time. First, though, you must go into the spooky forest and test yourself in battle! Bring me five wolf pelts as proof of your deeds."

The plucky youth smiled at this. "Way ahead of you, oh Wise One. For I have already sojourned in yon forest, and verily did I grind three levels! Though wolves assailed me every twenty seconds or so, I grimly spammed my basic attack until I got bored. Here are the pelts you seek."

"And fine pelts they are, too!" The wizened figure drew forth from his robe a dark metal sphere. "For your trouble, here is a bomb with which you may blow up the rockslide blocking the path north to the Temple of Fire. For it is there your Quest truly begins. Go now! You are the world's only hope!"

Seeking more information, the doughty wolf-slayer pressed the old man further.

"Go now!" The sage replied. "You are the world's only hope!"

"Yes, sir, I got that the first time. I wonder, though, if you might tell me more of what awaits me in the Temple of Fire."

"Go now! You are the world's only hope!"

The hero knew he would gain no further guidance from this particular learned hermit, and with a sigh turned to leave the hut. At the doorway, he hesitated. Had he really uncovered *all* the old man's secrets? Turning back, he rummaged through the various urns and boxes scattered about the place. Though most were empty, his search revealed thirty-two coins and a packet of mystical herbs.

"You don't mind if I help myself to your stash, do you?"

"Go now! You are the world's only hope!"

Taking that as a yes, the Hero of Prophecy stepped out into the streets of the city, a bustling metropolis of well over twelve souls. With the money he'd scrounged from the sage's crockery, he could now afford to trade in his sword of bronze for an axe of steel. The mighty Power Attack that weapon could provide would stand him in good stead, for the road to the Temple of Fire was long and the wolves that lurked there were a different and more dangerous colour than those of the forest.

FILM • PREVIEW

Lennon As A Young Man

RESPECTED PHOTOGRAPHER DEBUTS AS FILMMAKER WITH STRONG BIOPIC OF MUSIC LEGEND

NOWHERE BOY
Princess Theatre, from Dec. 3
★★★★☆

BY ALISTAIR HENNING

Forget being bigger than Jesus. John Lennon is, after Mother Teresa, the closest thing we have to a modern saint. If his peace activism was not enough, his senseless assassination 30 years ago this month confirms this.

It's hard to remember sometimes that even saints started out as real people. Which is why *Nowhere Boy*, the first film by 43-year-old British mixed media artist turned director Sam Taylor-Wood, starring her 20-year-old husband and baby daddy Aaron Johnson as John Lennon, is so refreshing.

Johnson most recently starred as the title character in the movie adaptation of the comic book *Kick-Ass*. Though he looks way too pretty to resemble John Lennon in any real way, here Johnson delivers a performance that reminds us of the wildness underpinning Lennon's musical and activist innovations. And in *Nowhere Boy* we certainly get a vivid taste of just how wild John Lennon was as a young man: he rides on top of busses to avoid paying the fare, steals American rock 'n' roll records from the local store, and flashes around a porno mag he's eventually expelled from school for sporting.

Anyone familiar with Lennon's music would suspect that the artist's early life was rocky. In this Yoko Ono approved take, our suspicions are confirmed, though we will probably never know just how accurate this portrayal of events actually is.

Taylor-Wood is a daring choice as a director for what will undoubtedly be an important coda to the cinematic canon of John Lennon representations. She is well-respected for her work as a photographer from the same scene as British art stars like Damien Hirst and Tracy Emin. So it's not surprising that *Nowhere Boy*'s cinematography is full of strong compositions.

Lennon fans will find much to like in this film. But even if you've never heard of the Beatles, *Nowhere Boy* will make you care about a boy who's already pretty extraordinary.

MOVIE GUIDE · WHAT'S PLAYING IN THEATRES

NOWHERE BOY

If you haven't had enough of the Beatles yet here's another movie about John Lennon. He's a teen in Liverpool, tragedy and teen angst ensue.

NIGHT CATCHES US

Could back for a week mean back for good for a former revolutionary? Why, oh why, does he go back?

THE WARRIOR'S WAY

Arter the hero abandons his quest because he has unwillingness to kill a baby. It's ninjas versus cowboys. Yee-haw, kapow!

L'ITALIEN

It turns out that the man with a perfect life is a poser. Who would be better to burst the bubble than his dad? But hey, it's not dad's fault that he's pretending ■ be Italian!

LONDON RIVER

What does it take ■ bring two people from two different religions together? Oh, just a suicide bombing involving their son and daughter.

SHANGHAI

John Cusack plays an American with a mission: to find out who killed his friend. But when Shanghai turns out to be hiding his own government's secrets, it seems like the best idea ■ ■ run.

HOWL

The poem "Howl" lands Ginsberg, played by James Franco, on trial for its contents. Does it seem scary that less than 60 years ago you could be put on trial for being obscene?

BRUCE LEE

The first part of three segments of Bruce Lee's life ■ sure ■ leave you wanting more: seeing as ■ ■ the end, ■ will only be one-third of the way done.

LA DANSE: LE BALLET DE L'OPÉRA DE PARIS

If nothing else can turn you on to ballet this documentary can. And if it doesn't there's a great possibility that nothing will.

LOVE CRIME

Two female executives ■ protege and her idol become rivals, and the protege becomes ■ plaything for the more powerful woman. It may not be quite the girl-on-girl action you were looking for, but it's something.

COOL IT

This ■ ■ This ■ the documentary about climate change that rules them all. ■ course, that's what they said about the last one. But maybe they're right this time.

LANCE ET COMPTE

In this hockey drama ■ Quebec City team faces a tragedy that threatens ■ overturne so they can get back on the ice. ■ ■ ■ should say get back on the ice.

HEARTLESS

A heart birth-marked outsider who has spent his life running from the world has to save the world from demons. ■ ■ ■

ARTS · PREVIEW

Schmoozy Is An Approachable Art Experience

ANNUAL RITUAL OF SCHMOOZING AND BOOZING AT LATITUDE 53 GETS A RETRO UPDATE

THE FINE ART OF SCHMOOZY
Latitude 53, Dec 4 at 8 p.m.

BY JESSE LOCKE

For the past 11 years, Edmonton artist-run centre Latitude 53 has played host to a fundraising soiree with the curious title *The Fine Art of Schmoozy*. Part schmoozing, part getting boozy, and all based on celebrating contemporary visual art, this weekend's 12th annual event will once again combine fine dining and cocktails with an exclusive silent auction and not-so-silent live music.

"I think a lot of people are wary about approaching artist-run centres, but this is a perfect opportunity for everyone to relax and enjoy what that city and the country have to offer in artwork," explains Outreach and Development Coordinator Vicky Wong. "There's nothing intimidating here. Basically it's just about enjoying yourself, and coincidentally, there's art on the wall on the wall, you can interact with, whether or not you want to sit on it."

Comfortable though they may be, many of this year's featured pieces stray outside of the traditional comfort zone of contemporary art. With contributions from local talents plus others spread across the country, the 2010 *Schmoozy* is geared towards spotlighting mid-career or established artists, rather than lesser-known up-and-comers. Wong highlights two standouts she feels personify the Lat 53 mandate.

"We have a beautiful piece from Richard Boulet, who is a textile-based artist," she says. "He's from Edmonton, and is very passionate about art making as a form of rehabilitation for people with disabilities. Just the fact that he uses craft mediums such as textiles, quilting and knitting is very interesting for us. When we think about fine art, we usually think of painting and sculpture, and he's breaking down those barriers by showing what contemporary or post-modern art really is right now. There are so many different practices going on."

"We also have Chris Reid, who is based out of Winnipeg," Wong continues. "Her work is sculptural. She makes sock bunnies as well as these cats made out of socks. Similar to what Richard Boulet is doing, she's a great example of breaking down conventional characteristics. I think it really speaks to what Latitude 53 is, because we're trying to showcase a lot of innovation."

Expanding further on the centre's raison d'être, Wong explains that Lat 53 hopes to showcase innovative artwork, while presenting all different stages of its creation. In addition, she considers it a welcome alternative to the city's other galleries.

"We have a projects room, which is reserved for works-in-progress, whether they're from artists that are emerging, mid-career or established," says Wong. "Established artists do create work that's topical, but oftentimes there are not really a lot of venues for their work outside of artist-run centres. I don't think a lot of public galleries would showcase their work based on the topics presented, and it might not be viable for commercial galleries either."

With the musical entertainment of singer Krystle dos Santos and soulful selections from DJ Eric Ng, the 2010 *Schmoozy* is also themed around a 1960s esthetic.

"Even though Krystle dos Santos is young and very contemporary, she also has touches that recall Cool Jazz singers of the '60s, or earlier," says Wong. "Eric Ng is a friend of mine and I know he really loves soul music. It puts you in a good mood, and continues the theme. Still, it's not exactly a retro party, but a celebration of our heritage. Artist-run centres came out of the '60s, and a lot of artwork and design coming out of that era were also trying to move towards ideas of progress and innovation."

Last year's Schmoozy (pictured above) was a hit, and with another stellar lineup and a retro theme, this year should be also. | PHOTO SUPPLIED

THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A DRINK, RELAX AND ENJOY SOME ART. THERE'S NOTHING INTIMIDATING HERE. IT'S JUST ABOUT ENJOYING YOURSELF, AND COINCIDENTALLY THERE'S ART ON THE WALL YOU CAN INTERACT WITH, WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO SIT ON IT.

SNAP SOCIETY OF NORTHERN ALBERTA PRINT-ARTISTS

2011 Limited Edition SNAP Calendars now available - Only $75!

LATITUDE 53
LATITUDE 53 INVITES MEMBERS AND GUESTS TO
THE FINE ART OF SCHMOOZY
A LATITUDE 53 SEASONAL FUNDRAISER AND SILENT ART AUCTION
With music by Krystle dos Santos and DJ Generic

SATURDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2010;
DOORS OPEN AT 8 PM
2ND FLOOR, 10248 106 STREET

Advance ticket prices
$15 members, $25 non-members. Tickets can be purchased at the gallery or online at latitude53.org
For more information, please contact 780 423 5353 or info@latitude53.org
This is an 18+ event, no minors.

More Manly Paintings

A solo show of Julian Forrest's painting comes to Harcourt House through Dec. 18. | JULIAN FORREST

EXTENSIVE USE OF FOUND IMAGERY, FORREST'S PAINTINGS SEEM TO BE ABOUT ALBERTA BUT GO BEYOND

JULIAN FORREST - (SIR)ROGATES
Harcourt House, Nov 25 to Dec. 18

BY TRENT WILKIE

Julian Forrest has a really tough job. No, he is not an underwater welder. Nor is he a bounty hunter from the future that is sent back to sterilize Brian Mulroney. He is an artist. You see, not only does he have to try to get honest art across in a world where pop singers are considered artists, but he also has to do so knowing that true artists don't make it easy for themselves.

"The word artist is bastardized," Forrest laughs. "Subway sandwich artist or Justin Bieber is an artist. Come on, we don't have a lot going for us, can we still keep the word artist?"

"But in all seriousness, I think we made our own bed when we expected people to come on board with some works that are indigestible. It's not just about process or concept because, at the end of the day, like everyone else I love films' music. But I feel that the artist's role is to try to tell you truth that helps you to decipher something about the time that you live in. Narrative is important and there will always be a necessity for it that is never going to die.

"This collection is a little bit of a departure from my last," continues Forrest. "It's more allegorical and still somewhat whimsical. My work always looks at masculinity in various ways and this still does that but it's much more about looking at it metaphorically. It's somewhat playfully at times using nostalgia from film, music and pop culture but there is always a twisted sense of what is going on. This show is very playful but still very bizarre."

Forrest's use of found imagery is prevalent in most of his body of work. Using the Internet as a muse, he is a collector of sorts. It's his use of these images that is the interesting part. It may make you may say things like, "Why is that bear's balloon the Dukes of Hazzard car?" Or, "Why does that make perfect sense?"

"I love the fact that we are in this age where there is this plethora of information and it is all available," Forrest says. "Everyone seems to consider themselves and artist and wants to document themselves.

"I surf this stuff and collect it, I love taking things and putting them in different context.

"Looking at things now, taking it out of its element, putting it in a new context and coming to a peripheral understanding of the moment. It's using the object as a visual shorthand, using images over and over in different ways.

"Sometimes people will come up and say that the images I use are so about Alberta or about Canada but often the images I found are from Germany or the States.

"None of the sources are from Alberta but is speaks about something here."

"As for getting it or not, there really isn't any worry about that in Forrest's Harcourt show. It's not that it is beyond understanding, but that it is layered to be available from many different perspectives.

"Truthfully, this show sings," says Forrest. "This is the one that allows people to access it in a different way. Sometimes people who are a more general audience may not know what I'm doing, but this show references a lot of familiar imagery. Everyone may not know what the painting is about but at least there is a comfortable access point."

And when you do understand a piece, make sure you go up to the artist and tell them what their work is about. Let them know that you know that their existential treatise has hints of a post-modern Dadaist exposition. They love that.

10442 whyte ave 439.1273

Adventurous gallery seeks multiple partners – mw4mw (Edmonton)

LATITUDE 53
BECOME A MEMBER
ENJOY THE BENEFITS

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latitude53.org/friendswithbenefits
LATITUDE53

theartery.ca
[illegible] listing
tickets [illegible]
The Eatery
[illegible]
Rent the Artery
hours [illegible]
full rental options

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3
Bahamas with Douglaisie
2010 Juno nominee Bahamas at the Artery
Doors at 8:00pm
Tickets [illegible] in advance at Blackbyrd [illegible]
foundationconcerts.com [illegible]

SATURDAY DECEMBER 4
KEMO TREATS
Featuring ADAM PALMER and COEUR DE LANE.
Doors at 9:00pm.
$10 advance tickets at Blackbyrd Myoozik. 18+

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10
Robots vs. Zombies
The Undead and Automated [illegible] at the Artery
Choose your side and [illegible] With DJs
Hostile 17, Sinnetik, Creatures, Paradigm
Theorem, Steve Nelson, [illegible] Pure Wilde
Doors [illegible] 8:00pm [illegible]

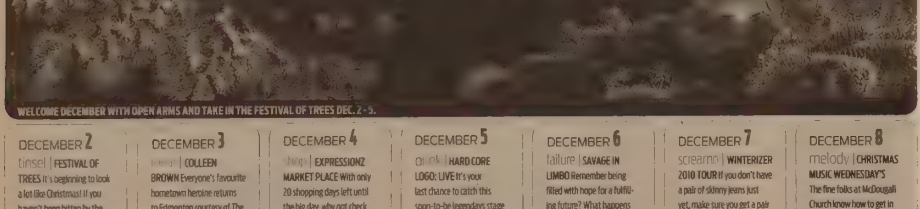
THURSDAY DECEMBER 23
Our Mercury with Falklands & Old Wives
Doors at 7:00pm.
$15 in advance at Shades Of Grey Tattoo & Freecloud Records. $18 at the door. 18+

LISTINGS

SOMETHING'S ENTERTAINING EDMONTON

have something going on? let us know by Friday noon | listings@see.greatwest.ca

thursday | friday | saturday | sunday | monday | tuesday | wednesday



WELCOME DECEMBER WITH OPEN ARMS AND TAKE IN THE FESTIVAL OF TREES DEC. 2 - 5.

DECEMBER 2
tinsel | **FESTIVAL OF TREES** It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! If you haven't been bitten by the holiday bug just yet, get out there and enjoy someone else's Christmas handy work without any of the effort. Shaw Conference Centre, 9 a.m.

DECEMBER 3
[illegible] | **COLLEEN BROWN** Everyone's favourite hometown heroine returns to Edmonton courtesy of The Best of Alberta Music Roadshow! Enjoy the lovely Colleen Brown Band, Jeff Stuart & The Hearts and Trevor Tchir. Old Strathcona Performing Arts Centre, 8 p.m.

DECEMBER 4
[illegible] | **EXPRESSIONZ MARKET PLACE** With only 20 shopping days left until the big day, why not check out some local artisans who will have some original items on sale, and pick up something truly unique for that special someone. Expressionz Cafe, 10 a.m.

DECEMBER 5
quick | **HARD CORE LOGO: LIVE** It's your last chance to catch this soon-to-be legendary stage performance of that awesome book, and cult-classic mockumentary that follows Joe Dick as he embarks on an ill-fated reunion tour. Roxy Theatre, 2 p.m.

DECEMBER 6
failure | **SAVAGE IN LIMBO** Remember being filled with hope for a fulfilling future? What happens when you turn 32 and are nowhere near where you had dreamed? You'll fit right in among the characters of this one act play. Timms Centre for the Arts, 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 7
screamo | **WINTERIZER 2010 TOUR** If you don't have a pair of skinny jeans just yet, make sure you get a pair before tonight's show. Get ready to rock your boots off courtesy of the emo hardcore sounds from The Devil Wears Prada, Silverstein and more! Starlite Room, 6 p.m.

DECEMBER 8
melody | **CHRISTMAS MUSIC WEDNESDAY'S** The fine folks at McDougall Church know how to get in the spirit! Head down to enjoy some hot coffee, warm cookies, a warm welcome and some Christmas music. McDougall United Church, 12 noon.

YEG Listings — Music Listings Provided by YEG Live

MUSIC

Thursday Dec 2

Live Music

BLUE CHAIR CAFE • *PM Bossa (Jazz, Latin)* • 7:30 PM • $8 AT THE DOOR

BLUES ON WHYTE • *Boogie Patrol (Blues, Gospel, R&B)* • 9 PM •

CAFE HAVEN • *O Without U feat. A.D.K. (Acoustic Of Knowledge) (Pop)* • 7 PM •

CORNERSTONE PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP • *Kuros with Iqbalasi and HOLLE (Folk)* • 6 PM • $10 AT THE DOOR

HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB • *Dave Ventresi with Aidan Knight and Guests (Alt., Pop)* • 8 PM • $10 IN ADVANCE. E-TIX AT YEGLIVE.CA.

JEFFREY'S CAFE & WINE BAR • *Ben Isaacs (Adult Contemp., Canadian, Folk)* • 8 PM • $15 IN THE DOOR

NORTH GLENORA HALL • *Jam Session & Dance feat. Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers Assoc. (World)* • 7 PM • $3 RECOMMENDED DONATION.

THE ARTERY • *Bahamas with Doug Paisley (Folk, Rock)* • 8 PM • $12 IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.

THE GAS PUMP CLUB AND BAR • *Glenn Gray Band (Folk, Rock)* • 8 PM • $3 AT THE DOOR

THE NEST @ NAIT • *Lindsay Ell (Blues, Country, Pop)* • 4:30 PM • NO COVER.

DJs/Club Nights

BRIXX BAR & GRILL • *Radio Brixx feat. Tommy Grimes (DJ, Rock)* • 8 PM • NO COVER.

TAPHOUSE • *Dusty Grooves (Dance, DJ)* • 9 PM •

Friday Dec 3

Live Music

BLUE CHAIR CAFE • *Rauli Family Annual Christmas Show feat. Lionel Rauli with Ron Rauli and Michael Rauli (Blues, Folk)* • 8 PM • $12 AT THE DOOR

BLUES ON WHYTE • *Boogie Patrol (Blues, Gospel, R&B)* • 9 PM •

CAFFREY'S IN THE PARK • *Burnstick (Blues, Gospel, R&B)* • 9 PM • NO COVER

DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB • *Stan Gallant (Rock)* • 9 PM • NO COVER

DOW CENTENNIAL CENTRE • *Keepsharp, Choral Society with Alberta Heartland Choral!* • 7 PM • $15 AT THE DOOR. CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE WITH FOOD BANK DONATION.

EXPRESSIONZ CAFE • *One Child's Village Art Show and Silent Auction feat. Brian McLeod (Folk, Jazz)* • 7 PM • $20 IN ADVANCE OR $25 AT THE DOOR. E-TIX AT YEGLIVE.CA.

FILTHY MCNASTY'S • *Brewsilo & Hutch (Blues, Rock)* • 4 PM • NO COVER.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • *First Presbyterian Senior Choir with Marnie Siesbrecht and Joachim Segger (Choral)* • 4 PM • DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR THE EDMONTON CHRISTMAS BUREAU

JULIAN'S PIANO BAR • *One Man, One Piano (Blues, Classical, Jazz)* • 8 PM •

MARYBETH'S COFFEE HOUSE • *Kaleb Kaiser (Pop, Punk)* • 7:30 PM • DONATIONS ACCEPTED.

MCDOUGALL UNITED CHURCH • *Chorale Saint-Jean (Choral)* • 8 PM • $20 ADULTS, $15 STUDENTS/SENIORS.

OLD STRATHCONA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE • *A Very Cosmopolitan Christmas feat. Cosmopolitan Music Society (Choral, Classical)* • 7:30 PM • SEE EVENT NOTES FOR COVER CHARGE DETAILS.

ON THE ROCKS • *Heather McKenzie Band feat. Heather McKenzie (Pop, Rock)* • 9 PM • $5 AT THE DOOR.

SHEAKY PETE'S • *The Greggs (Family Band) (Blues)* • 9:30 PM • NO COVER

STARLITE ROOM • *Unsigned feat. Black Mastiff with The Whitsundays and Future Echoes Sean Brewer and The Switchman (Rock)* • 6 PM • $8

WINSPEAR CENTRE • *Handel's Messiah feat. Richard Eaton Singers with Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (Choral, Classical)* • 7:30 PM • $20 AND UP. IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY

WOK BOX: JASPER & 112 • *Breezy Brian Gregg (Folk)* • 2:30 PM • NO COVER.

YARDBIRD SUITE • *CD Release feat. Hot Club Edmonton with Theo Heumann (Jazz, World)* • 8 PM • $14 MEMBERS, $18 NON-MEMBERS.

YELLOWHEAD CASINO • *The Pam Bros. Vegas Cabaret (Adult Contemp., Big Band)* • 8 PM • NO COVER. DJs/Club Nights

THE COMMON • *Boom The Box Fridays feat. Allout djs and Guests (Dance, DJ, Elect.)* • 9 PM •

THE GAS PUMP CLUB AND BAR • *DJ Christian with DJ Travis (DJ)* • 9 PM • NO COVER.

Saturday Dec 4

Live Music

AXIS CAFE / THE METRO ROOM • *Alee with Charlotte & Sarah (Country, Pop, Rock)* • 8 PM • $10 IN ADVANCE. OR $7 THE DOOR. E-TIX IN YEGLIVE.CA.

BLUES ON WHYTE • *Boogie Patrol (Blues, Gospel, R&B)* • 9 PM •

CAFFREY'S IN THE PARK • *Burnstick (Blues, Gospel, R&B)* • 9 PM • NO COVER

CROWN PUB • *Acoustic Open Stage feat. Marshall Lawrence (Blues)* • 7 PM • NO COVER.

DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB • *Stan Gallant (Rock)* • 9 PM • NO COVER

DOW CENTENNIAL CENTRE • *Keepsharp, Choral Society with Alberta Heartland Choral!* • 7 PM • $15 AT THE DOOR. CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE WITH FOOD BANK DONATION.

EXPRESSIONZ CAFE • *One Child's Village Art Show and Silent Auction feat. Brian McLeod (Folk, Jazz)* • 7 PM • $20 IN ADVANCE OR $25 AT THE DOOR. E-TIX AT YEGLIVE.CA.

FILTHY MCNASTY'S • *Brewsilo & Hutch (Blues, Rock)* • 4 PM • NO COVER.

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OLD STRATHCONA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE • *A Very Cosmopolitan Christmas feat. Cosmopolitan Music Society (Choral, Classical)* • 7:30 PM • SEE EVENT NOTES FOR COVER CHARGE DETAILS.

ON THE ROCKS • *Heather McKenzie Band feat. Heather McKenzie (Pop, Rock)* • 9 PM • $5 AT THE DOOR.

ROBERTSON WESLEY UNITED CHURCH • *Ukrainian Male Choir: UB Edmonton with Vitse Choir (Choral, World)* • 7 PM • $15 ADULTS, $10 YOUTH

SHEAKY PETE'S • *The Greggs (Family Band) (Blues)* • 9:30 PM • NO COVER

WINSPEAR CENTRE • *Handel's Messiah feat. Richard Eaton Singers with Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (Choral, Classical)* • 7:30 PM • $20 AND UP. IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY

YARDBIRD SUITE • *Lisa Feist feat. Amos Garrett (Folk)* • 8 PM • $22 MEMBERS, $26 NON-MEMBERS.

YELLOWHEAD CASINO • *The Pam Bros. Vegas Cabaret (Adult Contemp., Big Band)* • 8 PM • NO COVER. DJs/Club Nights

THE COMMON • *Boom The Box Fridays feat. Allout djs and Guests (Dance, DJ, Elect.)* • 9 PM •

THE GAS PUMP CLUB AND BAR • *DJ Christian with DJ Travis (DJ)* • 9 PM • NO COVER

Sunday Dec 5

Live Music

BLUE CHAIR CAFE • *Brunch feat. Jen Findlay Trio (Folk, Jazz)* • 10 PM • DONATIONS ACCEPTED

BLUE PEAR RESTAURANT • *Don Berner (Jazz)* • 6 PM • INCLUDED WITH DINNER

FESTIVAL PLACE • *The River City Big Band with Shelley Jones (Big Band, Jazz)* • 7:30 PM • $20 AND UP. IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY.

HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB • *The Breakmen and Guests (Ska, Punk, Folk)* • 7:30 PM • $10 AT THE DOOR.

OLD STRATHCONA PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE • *A Very Cosmopolitan Christmas feat. Cosmopolitan Music Society (Choral, Classical)* • 2:30 PM • SEE EVENT NOTES FOR COVER CHARGE DETAILS.

ON THE ROCKS • *CD Release: I Wish feat. Scottish Fiyah with Soulkitchen and Jeff Morris and Fender Case (R&B, Regional, Tropical)* • 6 PM • $10 IN ADVANCE, INCLUDES COPY OF CD. $20 AT THE DOOR. E-TIX AT YEGLIVE.CA.

ROBERTSON WESLEY UNITED CHURCH • *Music for a Festive Season feat. Alberta Baroque Ensemble with Jolaine Kerley and University of Alberta Madrigal Singers (Classical)* • 2:30 PM • $25 ADULTS, $20 STUDENTS/SENIORS. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.

ROBERTSON WESLEY UNITED CHURCH • *Music for a Festive Season feat. Alberta Baroque Ensemble with Jolaine Kerley and University of Alberta Madrigal Singers (Classical)* • 9 PM • $25 ADULTS, $20 STUDENTS/SENIORS. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.

SAINT ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH • *A Canadian Christmas feat. Vocal Alchemy (Folk)* • 7:30 PM • CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.

ST. JOSEPH'S BASILICA • *Hymns and Meetings for Christmas feat. Greenwood Singers (Choral)* • 7:30 PM • $10 IN ADVANCE, $15 AT THE DOOR.

WINSPEAR CENTRE • *Sing We Noweil feat. Cantilon Choir with Strathcona String Quartet and Hora Romanica Jeremy Spurgeon on the Davis Concert Organ (Children's, Choral)* • 2:30 PM • $20 FOR ADULTS, $17 FOR CHILDREN AND STUDENTS. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.

YARDBIRD SUITE • *CD Release feat. Karen Pardes with Jamie Philp (Adult Contemp., Adult Pop, Jazz)* • 8 PM • $15 IN ADVANCE.

Monday Dec 6

Live Music

BLUES ON WHYTE • *The Consonance (Folk)* • 9 PM • -

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • *The Misty Moods of Christmas feat. Greenwood Singers with Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers (Choral)* • 8 PM • $20 IN ADVANCE. OR AT THE DOOR.

Tuesday Dec 7

Live Music

BLUES ON WHYTE • *The Consonance (Folk)* • 9 PM • -

BRIXX BAR & GRILL • *Troubadoo Tuesdays feat. Second Hand Smoke with Mark Ferlak (Blues, R&B)* • 8 PM • NO COVER. CHARGE BEFORE 10:00 PM

SHERLOCK HOLMES: DOWNTOWN • *Darina Harvey (Guitar)* • 9 PM • NO COVER

STARLITE ROOM • *Winterizer 2010 Tour feat. Silverstein and The Devil Wears Prada (Hard Rock)* • 6 PM • $26 IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX.

YARDBIRD SUITE • *Tuesday Sessions: Quartet feat. Tim Mulligan with Mike Leon, Ron Heard, Jamie Cooper (Jazz)* • 7:30 PM • $5 MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS.

Wednesday Dec 8

Live Music

ARDEN THEATRE • *Christmas Concert feat. St. Albert Community Band (Big Band)* • 7 PM • $10 ADULTS, $8 SENIORS/STUDENTS. SERVICE.

BLUES ON WHYTE • *The Consonance (Folk)* • 9 PM •

FESTIVAL PLACE • *A Maritime Christmas feat. The Rankin Sisters (Holiday)* • 7:30 PM • $36 AND UP. IN ADVANCE. SERVICE CHARGES MAY APPLY. CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIX

GOOD EARTH COFFEEHOUSE DOWNTOWN • *Breezy Brian Gregg (Folk)* • 12 PM • NO COVER.

MCDOUGALL UNITED CHURCH • *Christmas Music Wednesdays at Noon feat. Don Berner (Jazz)* • 12 PM • NO COVER.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: DOWNTOWN • *Darina Harvey (Guitar)* • 8 PM • NO COVER

OPEN STAGES

THURSDAY DEC 2

CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE • *Zoomers Open Mic* • 1 PM • NO COVER.

MARYBETH'S COFFEE HOUSE • *Open Mic @ Marybeth's* • 7:30 PM • NO COVER.

FRIDAY DEC 3

THE LIZARD LOUNGE • *Open Mic @ Lizard Lounge* • 8:30 PM • NO COVER

SATURDAY DEC 4

CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE • *Open Mic w. The Carrot* • 7 PM • NO COVER

MORANGO'S • *Open Mic @ Morango's Tok Cafe* • 7 PM • NO COVER.

THE GAS PUMP CLUB AND BAR • *Live Blues Jam* • 3 PM • NO COVER.

SUNDAY DEC 5

DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB • *Celtic Jam Night Hosted by Ken Lynn Zwicker* • 5:30 PM • NO COVER.

ORLANDO 1 • *Orlando's 1 Sunday Open Stage Jamm* • 4 PM • NO COVER

MONDAY DEC 6

DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB • *Open Mic @ Devaney's* • 8 PM • NO COVER.

TUESDAY DEC 7

SECOND CUP - SUMMERWOOD • *Open Mic @ Second Cup Summerwood* • 7:30 PM • NO COVER.

THE DRUID • *Open Mic @ The Druid* • 9 PM • NO COVER.

WEDNESDAY DEC 8

BRIXX BAR & GRILL • *Eats N Beats Wednesday* • 6 PM • NO COVER.

CROWN PUB • *Open Jam with Miguel & Friends* • 8 PM • NO COVER

DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB • *Open Mic @ Devaney's with Duff Robinson* • 8 PM • NO COVER

ELEPHANT & CASTLE WHYTE AVE • *Open Mic @ Elephant and Castle* • 8:30 PM • NO COVER.

EXPRESSIONZ CAFE • *Expressionz Cafe Open Stage* • 7 PM • ADMISSION BY DONATION.

FIDDLER'S ROOST • *Little Flower Open Stage* • 8 PM • $2 AT THE DOOR

HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB • *Wednesday Jam* • 9 PM • NO COVER

ARTS & CULTURE

Exhibits

(SIR) ROGATES (JULIAN FORBES) HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY 3RD FLR, 10215 112 ST · This playful yet poignant look at masculinity and issues that arise in negotiating gender roles, like feminism, offers viewers a chance to contemplate Alberta's continually evolving landscape. *DAILY TIL DEC 18*

A WINTER COLLECTION WEST END GALLERY 13308 JASPER AV · A bold collection of new paintings and glass sculpture create a sensational holiday grouping show at the West End Gallery. *TUES.-SAT. FROM DEC 4 TO DEC 24*

ALL ABOUT STAR (SHEILA SPENCE) ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ · Short on boasts including the Canadian Rockies, International Rodeo in Strathmore and the Wood Mountain Stampede in southern Saskatchewan, Spence's images investigate the complexities of community and identity as they reflect the mythology behind rodeo culture. These portraits present traditional ideas about this community while provoking questions about the subjects and their individual roles within it. *DAILY TIL JAN 30*

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION BEARCLAW GALLERY 10439 124 ST · Contemporary Canadian Aboriginal Art. *DAILY FROM DEC 4 TO DEC 18*

CHRISTMAS TREASURES SCOTT GALLERY 10411 124 ST · Enjoy paintings by gallery artists, including Robert Sinclair, Jim Stokes, Sharon Oeldorf, Marianne Walchel and ceramic works by Anne Hainsley, and the Settlings. The work of new gallery artists, Joel Sheldon and Mitch Fenton will be featured. *DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS & MONDAYS TIL DEC 23*

EDWARD BURTYNSKY: OIL ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ · Rooted in the history of landscape painting, the 56 works in this exhibition present a new, modern landscape, altered by manufacturing, industry and human intervention. Produced in large scale, Burtynsky's images are panoramic in scope and transfixing in their clarity of detail. *DAILY TIL JAN 7 (TUES, 780 392-2468*

EXHIBIT (CAROLE ADRISTOW) WEST END GALLERY 13308 JASPER AV · Works by a West Coast based artist who paints bold and energetic canvases developed from abstract Impressionist influences. The joy of exploring the natural world inspires all her works. *TIL DEC 9*

FOLDY BOOKS OF DEATH (IAN FORBES) HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY 3RD FLR, 10215 112 ST · This exhibition brings together a body of work that began "almost by accident" in the spring of 2008. The Foldy Books of Death (FoBoD) are a series of accordion-style books that string together the random sketches and doodles typically relegated to the pages of a sketch book. *DAILY TIL DEC 18*

FOREST RHYTHMS GALLERY IN MUNER 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ · Acrylic paintings by Gail Eshkin. *DAILY FROM DEC 7 TO DEC 30*

GATHER RUMPLE FLEX AND FOLD (SCOTT CUMBERLAND) PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY 12304 JASPER AVE · His vibrant abstractions explore sculptural illusion and the physicality of acrylic paint. Dynamic ribbons of undulating colour create a sense of volume against the surface of his canvases. *DAILY TIL DEC 15*

GHOST IN THE MACHINE (PAUL BEINHAKER) PETER ROBERTSON GALLERY 12304 JASPER AVE · Through the unexpected use of colour and the purposeful layering and manipulation of paint, Beinhaker employs selected abstraction to explore human's tenuous relationship with the environment. *DAILY TIL DEC 15*

HENRI MATISSE: A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT AND LINE ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ · This comprehensive exhibition on the career of French artist Henri Matisse showcases over 100 works that span 50 years of Matisse's career. The exhibition places emphasis on the role that printmaking played in the development of the artist's career, and features a selection of paintings, sculpture and drawings from the Baltimore Museum of Art's world-renowned Cone Collection. Many of the latter works displayed are being shown for the first time in the exhibition. *DAILY TIL FEB 13*

LANDSCAPES OF ALBERTA (NATALIE SHEWCHUK-PARE) NAESS GALLERY 10032 81 AVE · Opening Reception Dec. 4, 2-4 p.m. · RUNS SAT DEC 4, 2:00 PM TO DEC 31

MENAGERIE SIDESHOW GALLERY 5903 99 HYNTE AVE · Artists: Cindy Baker, Tony Ficklas, Ashleigh Bartlett, Alex Copsis, Brenda Downey, Jude Goodwin, Libby Hagopa, Josh Holinaty, Diana Hobel, Hazel Rustouse, Kristina Hutchinson & Sydney Lancaster, Riko Kurogawa, Travis McEwen, John Richardson, David Rydman, Gail Rydman, Esther Scott-Mackay, Alayne Stallford

JEE Stanton, Keith Sum, Tammy Sutherland, Jeff Silverstone, Anya Tonkonogy and Laurel Westlund-Gray. *DAILY, EXCEPT SUNDAYS*

OF MYSTERIES (ELAINE STEINKE) COMMON SENSE 10546 115 ST · An exhibition of photographs that the materials in the images are made from jute, metal, paint, rust and the touch of nature and human elements, and of man's activities and tools. *DAILY TIL DEC 17*

PATHWAYS (ELLIE DREW) GLENROSE HOSPITAL 10230 111 AVE · Art exhibit that explores the many pathways we travel at our own pace through the different seasons. Mezzanine Gallery. *DAILY TIL DEC 13*

PHOTOGRAPHIC ART SHOW & SALE (SASQUATCH GATHERING) WINDERMERE BLDG 101 ST NW · A number of talented photographer-friends of the one festival have donated some beautiful images that will be printed, displayed and sold on a limited basis. *DAILY FRI DEC 3, AT 4:00 PM*

PIONEERING SPIRITS TELUS CENTRE 1100 87 AVE · The exhibition brings together 19 newly established artworks by the Group of Seven and Emily Carr in the University of Alberta Art collection. *FRI 12:00-7:00 PM, TUE 12:00-5:00 PM, SAT 2:00-5:00 PM*

PRAIRIE EXCELLENCE ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL 10186 106 ST · A unique project jointly organized by the Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba Craft Councils. The exhibition highlights a cross-selection of the best in fine craft in the prairie provinces. *Info: albertacraft.ab.ca · DAILY TIL DEC 18*

RETURN TO THUNDERWATER LAKE AGNES JUSTERA GALLERY 13308 JASPER AVE · An a landscape and figural painter who does much of his painting on location, Jerry Hare uses strong contrasting values and dynamic gally ranges and broken patterns into his representational compositions. With his 30 year career as a watercolorist, Jerry has participated in over 17 solo exhibitions across Canada. *DAILY TIL DEC 7*

SHADOW AND LIGHT (IGOR WOROKHOV) CAFE HAVEN 5 SIOUX BLD SHERWOOD PARK · Local landscape artist solo exhibition and sale · *DAILY TIL JAN 29*

THE CROOKED TREES OF ALTAONE (KEN DALGARNO) MCMULLEN GALLERY 10440 112 ST · Featuring a series of impasto treetwork artworks by Saskatchewan artist Ken Dalgarno. Also focus on the mutant clones (& something zones now) Halfbert. *Saskatchewan · DAILY TIL DEC 18*

THE SYMBOLIST MUSE: IF COLLECTION OF PRINTS FROM THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 2 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ · Featuring works by 18 important European artists, including Paul Gauguin, Maurice Denis, Edouard Manet, Pablo Picasso and Odilon Redon. *DAILY TIL MAR 13*

THREE SOLO EXHIBITIONS LANDO GALLERY 11310 149 AVE · Adele Kinsmer: Surfaces, Mark Ballentine: English Wheel Tree, Jo Anne Pelletier: There Is No Help Coming. *DAILY TIL DEC 4*

VANISHING WILDLIFE (PATRICIA MANSELL) GLENROSE HOSPITAL 10230 111 AVE · Art exhibit that conveys messages of family warmth and unity, a spirit of freedom or exploration and brings out the individuality of each animal by capturing it's essence. Blue Crane & Art on the Inside Galleries. *DAILY TIL DEC 18*

VESSELS PROFILES ART GALLERY OF ST. ALBERT 19 PERRON ST, St Albert · What is a vessel? Explore this concept through ceramics by Candace Rieck, Mandy Kershaw, Suzette Knudsen & Mary Swain, paintings by Pierre Bataillard & installation art by Gordon Perret. Through the perspectives of six artists, this exhibition investigates & challenges the idea of containment. *DAILY FROM DEC 3 TO JAN 29*

WHEELS, WINGS AND WAVES TELUS WORLD OF SCIENCE 11211 142 ST · The interactive exhibit spans 6,000 square feet and showcases the history of transportation with a whole of LEGO® sculptures including a Viking longboat, the earliest aircraft and the Titanic. *DAILY TIL JAN 3 Info: 780 452-9100*

Theatre

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS JOHN C. HAAR THEATRE 10045 155 ST NW · Based on the poem by Clement Clarke Moore, this 50-minute ballet is something the whole family can enjoy. *DAILY FROM DEC 3 TO DEC 4, AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 413-0965*

BOOM (LISE ZERO DANCE) CATALYST THEATRE 8529 GATEWAY BLVD NW · It will smash, make loud sounds, and wake us up to the Boom that has happened and is happening in Edmonton - our diversity, our talent, our youth as a city - what we are about and where we are going. *SAT DEC 4, 8:00 PM*

DIE-NASTY VARSCONA THEATRE 10329 83 AVE · The Canadian Comedy Award-winning live improvised soap opera returns for its 10th season of romance, passion, betrayal, love, lust and laughs! · *MONDAYS TIL MAY 30, AT 7:30 PM*

DISNEY'S HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL (ST. ALBERT) ST. ALBERT PLACE 5 ST. ANNE ST, St Albert · *780-459-1542 WWW.ALBERTAPLACE.COM*

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BRIXX BAR & GRILL 10030 102 AV · *780-429-1996 WWW.BRIXXBARANDGRILL.CA*

CAFE HAVEN - 9 SIOUX BLD, SHERWOOD PARK · *780-417-5213 WWW.CAFEHAVEN.CA*

CAFFREY'S IN THE PARK - 149 HWY 651, SHERWOOD PARK · *780-449-7650 WWW.CAFFREYS.CA*

CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE - 9251 118 AV NW · *780-479-9580 WITSONWEAVE.ORG/THECARROT*

CORNERSTONE PENTECOSTAL FELLOWSHIP - 11127 127 STREET, CHURCHILL AVE, ST. ALBERT · *780-456-0559*

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DEVANEY'S IRISH PUB - 9319 88 AV NW · *780 465-4834 WWW.DEVANEYS.CA*

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FESTIVAL PLACE - 100 FESTIVAL WAY, SHERWOOD PARK · *780-464 2992 WWW.FESTIVALPLACE.AB.CA*

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FILTHY MCNASTY'S 10327 WHYTE AV NW · *780 432 5224 WWW.FILTHYMCNASTYS.CA*

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NOTHING (WALTERDALE PLAYHOUSE) WALTERDALE PLAYHOUSE 10021 85 AVE · Brian with an ensemble cast, young lovers, Nero and Claudia are faced with total marriage. There is no such fairy for seasoned singles Beatrice and Benedick, whose scorn for love and penchant for verbal sparring proved their scheming friends to plan a happy ending. *DAILY FROM DEC 1 TO DEC 11, AT 8:00 PM*

Comedy

BROWN ON BOURBON THE COMEDY STRIP 10230 BOURBON STREET, WEST · With Brian's Royal Brown hosts this Local Talent Night. · *TUESDAYS, AT 8:00 PM*

COMEDY NIGHT TELUS 10330 109 ST · · *TUESDAYS, AT 8:30 PM*

COMEDY NIGHT SUMMARY (LARS CALLEDOU) THE GROUD 11606 JASPER AVE · Hosted open stage for anyone wanting to try stand up comedy · *SUNDAYS, AT 9:00 PM*

HITOR MISS MONDAYS THE COMEDY STRIP 10230 BOURBON STREET, WEST · Amateur comedy. Info: www.thecomedystrip.ca 435-5999 *MONDAYS, AT 8:00 PM*

SCOTT FAULDOMBIRDIE YUK YUK'S CENTURY CASINO · He has performed twelve times at the prestigious Just For Laughs festival, earned two more Canadian Comedy Award nominations as a member of the award-winning troupe On the Spot improv, and was nominated for a 2009 Canadian Comedy Award as Best Male Stand Up. · *DEC 3 & 4, CALL FOR SHOWTIMES. Info: 780 483-9659*

THE HYDEAWAY COMEDY NIGHT JEROLL & HYDE'S HYDEAWAY 10209 100 AVENUE · *TUESDAYS, AT 9:00 PM*

Improv

CHIMPROV VARSCONA THEATRE 10329 83 AVE · *CHIMPROV*

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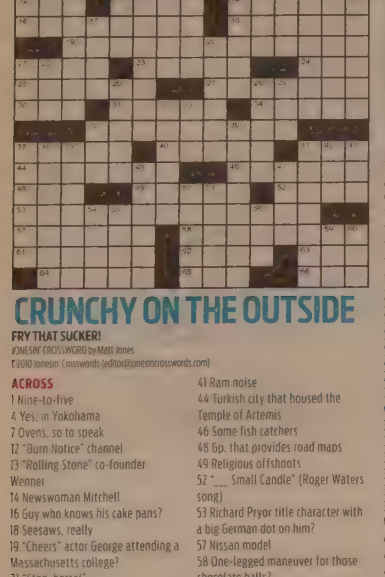
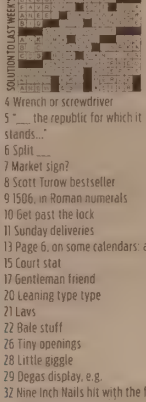


SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



CRUNCHY ON THE OUTSIDE

FRY THAT SUCKER!

JONESIN' CROSSWORD by Matt Jones

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ACROSS

1 Nine-to-five
4 Yes, in Yokohama
7 Ovens, so to speak
12 "Burn Notice" channel
13 "Rolling Stone" co-founder Wenner
14 Newswoman Mitchell
16 Guy who knows his cake pans?
18 Seesaws, really
19 "Cheers" actor George attending a Massachusetts college?
21 "Stop, horse!"
23 Hits a bicycle horn
24 Pond fish
25 Opera singer Enrico
27 Accomplishes
30 Barrett once of Pink Floyd
31 Native
34 Physicist Mach who coined the term "Mach number"
35 End-of-the-day payment-fest?
37 Surround
40 With perfect timing
41 Rain noise
44 Turkish city that housed the Temple of Artemis
46 Some fish catchers
48 Gp. that provides road maps
49 Religious offshoots
52 "___ Small Candle" (Roger Waters song)
53 Richard Pryor title character with a big German dot on him?
57 Nissan model
58 One-legged maneuver for those chocolate balls?
61 Rembrandt's city of birth
62 Cupid's Greek counterpart
63 Skipbo relative
64 Give props to
65 Simple sandwich
66 Understand a joke

DOWN

1 Protrude
2 Suffix for sugars
3 It gets bleeped
4 Wrench or screwdriver
5 "___ the republic for which it stands..."
6 Split ___
7 Market sign?
8 Scott Turow bestseller
9 1506, in Roman numerals
10 Get past the lock
11 Sunday deliveries
13 Page 6, on some calendars: abbr
15 Court stat
17 Gentleman friend
20 Leaning type type
21 Lavs
22 Bale stuff
26 Tiny openings
28 Little giggle
29 Degas display, e.g.
32 Nine Inch Nails hit with the freaky video
33 Gothic novelist Radcliffe
35 Honey Nut Cheerios mascot
36 "Well, there goes that option..."
37 "C'mon, help me out here!"
38 Shoulder decoration
39 Word repeated in T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland"
41 Wraparound greeting
42 Free throw path
43 Volcano spew
45 Obviously-named American financial giant
47 Super-cool computer geek language
50 "People" newsmaker
51 Spin around
54 2000 Radiohead album
55 U.S. Treasury agents
56 End zone scores, briefly
59 Inseparable
60 Poker stakes

in Rapid Fire Theatre's longform comedy show. Here you will see crafted improv formats, intimate narratives, and one-act plays sure to make you burst a gut. • SATURDAYS, 11 PM. (NO SHOWS ON THE LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH) WWW.RAPIDFIRETHEATRE.COM

THEATRESPORTS (RAPID FIRE THEATRE) • VARSCONA THEATRE • 10329 83 AVE • Teams of improvisors battle in our squared circle. No pointless figure is safe, no preconception left unprodded. • FRIDAYS AT 10:00 PM

Readings & Lectures

2011 ALBERTA LITERARY AWARDS (WRITERS GUILD OF ALBERTA) VARIOUS LOCATIONS/VENUES CHANGE • Writers from across Alberta are invited to check out and submit to this year's Alberta Literary Awards categories. • THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS DECEMBER 31. WWW.WRITERSGUILDABA.CA

BOOK LOVERS CHRISTMAS SALE (WRITERS GUILD OF ALBERTA) STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY • 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. • Meet authors from across the province. Listen to book readings, enter for door prizes, and purchase signed copies of Alberta books at this free event. • SAT DEC 4, 12:00 PM

CENTRE FOR READING: FROM BOOKS TO FILM STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY • 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. • Info: 780-700-0 • FRIDAYS AT 5:00 PM

POETRY READINGS YOUGE LOUNGE 10111 117 ST. • Wish local poets, info: 902-590-0 • TUESDAYS AT 8:00 PM

POETRY READINGS LEVIA CAFE BAR 11053 86 AVE. • Info: 479-5362 • EVERY THIRD SUNDAY

STORY SLAM HAVEN SOCIAL CLUB 8100A STONY PLAIN RD. • Tell your five-minute, original story on stage, to win audience donations. Followed by mesa jam. • THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 PM

STROLL OF POETS: POETS' HAVEN READING SERIES UPPER CRUST CAFE 10008 82 AVE • The Stroll of Poets Society invites you to celebrate the power of the spoken word with The Poets' Haven Weekly Reading Series. • MONDAYS TIL MAR 21, AT 7:00 PM Info: 780-422-6174

T.A.L.E.S ROSIE'S BAR AND GRILL 10405 80 AVE • Story cafe series. Info: 937-4409 • FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

T.A.L.E.S CITY ARTS CENTRE 10943 84 AVE • A monthly story telling circle. Info: 937-4409 • SECOND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 8:00 PM

WRITER'S CORNER STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY • 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. • The library hosts a different author each month. • LAST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 1:30 PM

Screen

WINDS OF HEAVEN TELUS CENTRE 11011 87 AVE • Edmonton Premiere, Q&A with director Michael Ostroff. Winds of Heaven explores the deep, brooding mystery and inner beauty of Lin's paintings. Pioneering Spirits exhibition gallery will be open before and after the film. • MON DEC 6, 7:30 PM Info: 780-432-5834

Events

A CHRISTMAS PAST RUTHERFORD HOUSE PROVINCIAL HISTORIC SITE 11153 SASKATCHEWAN DR • Experience the cozy atmosphere of this historic home while discovering Christmas traditions of the Rutherford family. • SUN DEC 5, 12:00 PM

CAMPAIGN 2010 (CHRISTMAS BUREAU OF EDMONTON) VARIOUS LOCATIONS/VENUES CHANGE • • DAILY TIL DEC 24, AT 11:30 AM Info: 780-414-1666/1-866-1-9627

CHRISTMAS BENEFIT DINNER & DANCE (ROMEO GASASIRA) PARKVIEW CH HALL 9135 146 ST. • Fassifina African Culture Festival Society in collaboration with African Arts Sound & Events, and Alberta West African Society, is hosting fundraiser that will go to Romeo Gasasira (S.T.U.D.A.) in Support of the launch of his first Album "Au Coeur De Ma Cite". Music by Mela Divine Band. Justin Blair with dancers Andree, Macha, Tahnee, Kayla. • SAT DEC 4, 5:00 PM

CHRISTMAS CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE (GRIEVING PARENTS SOCIETY) KNOX METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH 8307 109 ST. • SUN DEC 5, 7:00 PM Info: 780-451-5381

CHRISTMAS TEA, SING-A-LONG & DANCE CENTRAL LIONS SENIOR RECREATION CENTRE 11113 171 ST. • Come enjoy the music and sounds CLSA Seniors Big Band. Sing and dance the afternoon away. Purchase ticket deadline: December 2. • TUE DEC 7, 1:30 PM Info: 780-496-7369

COMMUNITY ART NIGHT NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE 9704 111 AVE • Adult art sessions. • TUESDAYS AT 6:30 PM Info: 780-426-7611

EXPRESSIONZ MARKET PLACE EXPRESSIONZ CAFE 9938 70 AVE NW • A mecca of local artisans and creative, helpful, businesses. • FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 10 A.M.

FAMILY ART NIGHT NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE 9704 111 AVE • THURSDAYS AT 6:30 PM Info: 780-426-7611

FAMILY WINTER CELEBRATION & SILENT AUCTION BROOKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTRE 280 BULYEA RD. • SAT DEC 4, 12:00 PM

FARMER'S MARKET ALBERTA AVENUE CL HALL 9270 118 AVE • THURSDAYS AT 2:00 PM

FESTIVAL OF TREES SHAW CONFERENCE CENTRE 9797 JASPER AVE. • DEC 2-5, 9:00 AM

GRAND OPENING STRATHCONA COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTRE 2001 SHERWOOD DR. SHERWOOD PARK • Come and celebrate the Grand opening of Strathcona County's new Community Centre in Sherwood Park. • SUN DEC 5, 2:00 PM

HOMES FOR CHRISTMAS TOUR VARIOUS LOCATIONS VENUES CHANGE • Tour 5 different homes decorated for Christmas by local designers and retailers in support of the St. Albert Senior Citizen's Club. • DAILY FROM DEC 3 TO DEC 4, AT 4:00 PM Info: 780-459-0433

INDOOR SANTA CLAUS PARADE CITY CENTRE MALL 10200 102 ST • Get into the holiday spirit as an entourage of floats, marching bands and costumed characters wind their way through the downtown pedway system. • SUN DEC 5, 10:00 AM

LET IT SNOW: ART SALE & SILENT AUCTION TELUS CENTRE 11011 87 AVE • The University of Alberta's Department of Art & Design wants you to join us for an evening of art, food, drinks & other festivities! (artwork for sale by art & design students). • FRI DEC 3, 7:00 PM

OPENING RECEPTION: VESSELS (PROFILES: ART GALLERY OF ST. ALBERT) 19 PERRON ST. ST. ALBERT • Ceramics by Candice Ring, Mandy Andrews, Suzette Knutsen & Mary Swain; paintings by Pierre Balaillard & installation art by Gordon Perret. Music by Visionary Entertainment Inc. Snowman Scavenger Hunt & Children's Holiday Art Workshop at the Gallery. Snowflake Festival throughout the Perron District. • FRI DEC 3, 6:00 PM

QUILT SALE & PAINTERS SALE HOSANNA LUTHERAN CHURCH 9009 153 ST. • Proceeds of sale donated to outreach ministries. • THU DEC 9, 7:00 PM Info: 780-484-3932

RECLAIMING LOST SPACES/ALLEY OF LIGHT OPEN HOUSE ENTERPRISE SQUARE 10230 JASPER AV • For nine months, nearly 40 individuals from the 104 Street area, have been reimagining how a downtown alley can be transformed. View some of our ideas, and add your own as we begin to finalize a design. • SUN DEC 5, 2:00 PM WWW.EOTE.CA

SERVUS COMMUNITY ACCESS NIGHT ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA 7 SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ. • Free access to the Art Gallery of Alberta. • LAST THU OF EVERY MONTH, 6 P.M.

SPIRIT OF GIVING LUNCHEON NISKU INN 1101 4 ST. NISKU • The Leduc & District Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with the Leduc Nisku Economic Development Association to host the "Spirit of Giving" Christmas Luncheon. • TUE DEC 7, 11:30 AM Info: 780 986-5454

THE DEEP FREEZE FESTIVAL VARIOUS LOCATIONS VENUES CHANGE • Volunteers at the festival, January 8 and 9 and experience the acts on 118th Ave. • CURRENTLY SEEK ING VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS.

THE FINE ART OF SCHMOOZY LATITUDE 53 10246 106 ST. • An exciting and stylish evening of fine food, fine drink, fine art and fine company - all in support of Latitude 53's programmings. • SAT DEC 4, 8:00 PM Info: 780 423-5353

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS ART SHOW & CRAFT SALE SUN AND MOON GALLERY/DONALD ROSS SCHOOL • Showcasing Aboriginal & Metis Artists, Crafts, Music & Food. • DAILY FROM DEC 4 TO DEC 5, AT 10:00 AM Info: 780 433-3097

U OF A FORESTRY CHRISTMAS TREE SALES CORBETT HALL 8203 114 ST • Balsam fir, Douglas fir, White pine, and Scots pine offered in various heights. • WEEKENDS 9 A.M. TO 9 P.M., WEEKDAYS 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

WORDS IN THE PARK: BOOK SALE AND FAIR STRATCONA COUNTY LIBRARY 400 FESTIVAL LANE, SHERWOOD PARK • All ages, Book Signing, Literary Readings. • SAT DEC 4, 1:00 PM

Meetings

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (PIT BULLS FOR LIFE) EDMONTON HUMANE SOCIETY 13620 163 ST. • Register in advance at 780 669-0463. • TUE DEC 7, 7:00 PM

BABIES IN ARMS AND LAPS CARROT COMMUNITY ARTS COFFEE HOUSE 9351 118 AV NW • Moms and little ones meet. • FRIDAYS AT 10:00 AM

DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS MILL WOODS LIBRARY 601 MILL WOODS TOWN CENTRE • Kids 10 - 17 can spend an afternoon with other passionate "D and D" players to discover a world of fantasy and imagination. • 1 PM EVERY SECOND SUNDAY, SEPT. 12 - DEC. 5.

FOOD ADDICTS ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 8424 95

CLOSED SUNDAY
Corner of 118 & 124 st
780 451.1390
SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1 AM - 6PM
LIVE MUSIC 6 DAYS A WEEK
RUSTY REED'S HOUSE OF BLUES
December 3 - 4 Jimmy D Lane
Son of Legendary Chicago Bluesman
Jimmy Rogers Rockin' Blues
He has worked with Eric Clapton, Mick Jagger, Jim Keltner, Keith Richards, B.B King, Van Morrison, Robert Plant, Jimmy Page & Harry Hypolite
UPCOMING WEEKEND EVENTS:
Dec 2 - Tacoy Ryde
Dec 13-15 - Tim Williams
Dec 10 &11 -Big Hank & a Fist Full of Blues
Dec 17-18 - Front Porch Blues Revue
Edmonton's Hottest Nightclub Now Open!!
CALL ABOUT OUR NEW YEARS BASH!
with Bobby Cameron and the Rusty Reed Band
Win a Trip to Vegas!
CHECK OUT OUR NEW MENU!
Chef Jacob Amico from Skinny Legs & Cowgirls

AVE · A free recovery program for anyone suffering from eating disorders, overeating, and food obsessions · FRIDAY 7 PM Info: 780-465-2019/450-4379

MAHAMUDRA STUDY PROGRAM KARMA TASHI LING (0502 70 AVE) · Film the text "Clarifying The Natural State", by Dudjom Tesha Namgyal, along with Ven. Thrangu Rinpoche's commentary "Crystal Clear: Practical Advice for Mahamudra Meditation" · TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS MISERICORDIA HOSPITAL (8840 87 AVE · Weekly support meetings. SATURDAYS AT 11:00 AM Info: 780-423-7546

SUIT UP AND SHOW UP: AA BIG BOOK STUDY FIELD CENTRE 9540 111 AVE · Discussion and support group for those struggling with an alcohol addiction or seeking support in staying sober. · SATURDAYS AT 12:00 PM

WALKING WITH GRIEF FOR PARENTS EDMONTON BEREAVEMENT CENTRE 202, 10309 124 ST · Eight-week structured support group will provide support to parents whose child has died at any age · WEDNESDAYS JTL FEB 28, AT 6:45 PM Info: 780 454-1994 ext. 224

Learning

AWAKENING THE RIVER OF YOUR HEARTSONG DANCE PERCUSSION STUDIO 7252 101 AVE · Vocal improvisation · MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 485-2515

EDMONTON'S BILINGUAL TOASTMASTER'S CLUB CAMPUS ST. JEAN B406 MARIE-ANNE-GABOURY ST · Develop communication, leadership, and public speaking skills in both English and French. 1-22, Pavilion Mountain. Info: 476-9963 · TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM

FACILITATED DRUM CIRCLES DANCE PERCUSSION STUDIO 7252 101 AVE · Learn traditional West African hand drumming · TUESDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 485-2515

HEART DANCE WESTMOUNT FITNESS CLUB 12840 109 AVE, EDMONTON · Exploring creative expression of the body through music · WEDNESDAYS AT 7:15 PM Info: 780 485-2515

LEARN MORRIS DANCE 11111 KEEGANO HALL RICHFIELD RD & 76A AVE · Free Lessons; Info: 475-1876 · SATURDAYS TIL DEC 31, AT 10:00 AM

MARIMBA LESSONS DANCE PERCUSSION STUDIO 7252 101 AVE · THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 485-2515

MEDITATE CENTRAL EDMONTON, Learn Vipassana Meditation: an ancient Asian setting, lying and walking practice. Adults welcome. Cost: $25/Class. TUESDAYS till DEC 31 AT 2:00 PM Info: 780.990.8955

POWERTALK INTERNATIONAL TRINITY UNITED CHURCH 8310 MEADOWLARK RD · Learn the art of public speaking

Light and photograph: your work to reveal your creation The AGA has a limited number of digital cameras for student use. Bring in your own camera in order to keep and edit your images. · FRIDAY 1:30 PM

SWING DANCE AT SUGAR FOOT STOMP ORANGE HALL 10335 98 AVE · Beginner lessons followed by dance · SATURDAYS 30:30 PM

TANGO CLASSES ORANGE HALL 10335 84 AVE · THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM Info: 780 905-8925

TOURS FOR TOTS ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA (2 WINSTON CHURCHILL SQ · Drop in art classes for families and children aged three-five · WEDNESDAYS TO DEC 31 AT 10:00 AM

YOU'RE SINGLE AND DON'T WANT TO BE RIVER GRANNY CONDOMINIUM (RIVERDALE [illegible]

COMMUNITY POTLUCK PRINCE FEN [illegible] 9540 111 AVE · Everybody open to [illegible]

SUPPORT GROUP PRIDE CENTRE [illegible]

CROSS DRESSERS THE TUNNEL [illegible]

MENTALKING WITH PRIDE PRIDE CENTRE [illegible]

YOUTH MOVIE [illegible] 101 AVE · Movie night [illegible] 24-29) · [illegible]

YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VARIOUS LOCATIONS/VENUES CHANGE A warm and friendly place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, identified queer, questioning, and straight youth can gather to have fun and learn about themselves and others in a safe and supportive environment. Info: 780-758-7497 · SATURDAYS AT 7:00 PM

YOUTHSPACE SOUTH OLD TRATHECHA YOUTH SOCIETY 10325 81 AVE · Drop in/group activities · WEDNESDAYS AT 3:00 PM

SEEN IT LIVE · GREAT GIGS YOU MISSED LAST WEEK

SKINNY BYE-BYE · Kyle, Penny Dreadful and Motorjoan (as well as an unpictured Gravy) band together one last time as the Skinny, though our music scene would surely get down on its hands and knees for more. The reunion show also dusted off the Frosted Tips, who have since morphed into BrontoScorpio. Rock and Roll smiled. | PHOTO: [illegible]

classifieds

PHONE: 430-9003 | FAX: 432-1102 | EMAIL: classifieds@see.greatwest.ca

130. Coming Events

FESTIVAL OF CRAFTS · Alberta's Largest Christmas Art & Craft Sale Dec 2 - Dec 5 RMO Centre Stampede Park, Calgary. For details see www.festivalofcrafts.ca

190. Announcements

Durka Durka
For My Captain
This is the midway point - can't wait to have you home. I love you!

200. Business/Invest. Oppor.

90% COMMISSION Travelonly has 500 agents across Canada. Business opportunity with low investment, unlimited income potential, generous tax/travel benefits. Run your travel company, full-time, part-time from home. Register for free seminar. www.travelonly.ca 1-800-608-1117, ext. 2020

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MOMS EARNING MORE. Work from home part or full-time. No selling. No inventory. No parties. No risk. Visit www.momsearningmore.com or call 1-866-843-5508

410. Education/Training

MASSAGE CAREER Train in our highly regarded progressive school and graduate with confidence! Excellence in education, guaranteed! 403-346-1018. www.albertainstituteofmassage.com.

MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION · rated #12 for at-home jobs. Train from home with the only industry approved school in Canada. Contact CanScribe today! 1-800-466-1535. www.canscribe.com. info@canscribe.com

1005. Help Wanted

DRILLING PERSONNEL includes Rig Managers Required for the winter drilling season. Please fax resume to 780-960-6060 or email info@calibrardrilling.com

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

#1 IN PARDONS Remove your criminal record. Get started today for only $49.95/month Limited time offer Fastest, guaranteed pardon in Canada. Free consultation 1-866-416-6772. www.ExpressPardons.com

16 WEEKS TO MILLWRIGHT · 1st year! Gain experience in lathes, milling machines, grinders. Write 1st year apprenticeship exam GPRC Grande Prairie Campus 1-888-999-7882. www.gprc.ab.ca/farview

16 WEEKS TO WELDER 1st year apprentice! Two intakes: January at Grande Prairie February in Fairview 12 weeks theory, 4 weeks practicum GPRC 1-888-999-7882. www.gprc.ab.ca/farview

EXPERIENCED HAIRSTYLIST Required. Top wages. Call Terry, 780-778-4248

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

4TH LARGEST Apprenticship Training Centre in Alberta. Sensible classes second to none training aids, excellent instructors. Affordable residences. Reserve your spot for next intake now GPRC Fairview Campus 1-888-999-7882

CALNASH TRUCKING LTD. has opening for winch tractor two picker operators, swampers dispatchers, loader operator truck pushes & hoist safety personnel for winter camp jobs. Experienced preferred. Competitive wages and benefits. Fax resume to 403-783-3011 or email hr@calnashtrucking.com. No phone calls please. Only individuals selected for an interview will be contacted.

ENCORE CORING & DRILLING inc. hiring all Coring & Drilling positions for 2010-2011 Season. Ask about our coring premium and incentives. Apply now 1-888-ENSIGN-0 (1-888-367-4460) or local 780-955-8808. Info@encorepenergy.com or fax 780-955-6160

HAVE FUN making money as an actor across a film extra on Calgary movie sets. All ages required. 403-521-0077

INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN 1st year Now offered through Grande Prairie Regional College. Starts January 2011. Affordable residence accomodation instructors, smaller classes. Reserve your seat. Call 1-888-999-7882

NABORS is looking for experienced Service/Rigs hands for work throughout Alberta. Drivers licence, fst aid & BOP. Have required Check out www.naborscanada.com today!

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

INTERIOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT Operator School. Locations in Alberta & BC. Hands on real world training. Full range equipment. Job placement assistance. Funding available 1-866-398-3885. www.iheschool.com

JOURNEYMAN MECHANIC Heavy Equipment Excellent benefit package full-time position. Competitive wages New Holland equipment would be an asset. $1000 tool bonus. Apply in person at Store Manager or fax resume at 780-645-5770. Tri-ag Implements St Paul Alberta

MORGAN CONSTRUCTION & Environmental Ltd. is looking for experienced finishing dozer, grader, excavator, scraper, rock truck and packer operators as well as foreman and labourers for work in the oilfield and heavy civil construction projects. Clean driver's abstract and fit safety tickets a must. (Standard First Aid, H2S, CSTS/PST and Ground Disturbance II). Competitive wages full benefits. Resumes can be faxed to 780-952-4926 email to careers@morcl.ca or apply in person at 702 Acheson Road, Acheson Alberta. Only those contacted will be interviewed.

PROVINCE WIDE Classifieds Reach over 1 million readers weekly. Only $299 + GST (based on 25 words or less). Call this newspaper NOW for details.

REGIONAL CAPACITY Coordinators needed to connect leaders and board-members of Non-Profit and Voluntary Organizations to learning and development opportunities. www.volunteeralberta.ab.ca

1500. Help Wanted — Alta.

REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY Journeyman Mechanic with Peterbilt diesel training. Excellent benefit package and competitive wages full-time position. Apply in person to Service Manager at S.L. Ford Sales in Slave Lake Alberta. Fax resume at 780-849-3333 or email to kaddad@slaskfordca.com

TECHNICIAN REQUIRED Bow Valley Ford Canmore Alberta. Great working conditions in a very busy shop with great rates & full benefits package. Contact Joe Hawkeye 403-678-2270 Fax 403-678-2271 Email jhawkeye@bowvalleyford.com

WANTED South Central Alberta Company looking for Red Truck Drivers & Winch Truck Drivers experience a must. Fax resume to 403-527-7652

WELDERS required immediately! Do All Metal Fabricating Estevan, SK. 1st and 2nd year apprentices, journeyman welders or equivalent to perform all weld procedures on custom manufacturing environment. We offer competitive wages, benefits. RRSP's & apprenticeship opportunities. Apply by email Wildgeese@doallmetal.com or fax 306-634-8399

1600. Volunteers Wanted

Deep Freeze A Byzantine Winter Festival 2011 is on Jan. 2 & 3, and we need volunteers.
We are expecting over 10,000 visitors to Alberta Ave and the Deep Freeze weekend, and we need lots of help. (For more info on volunteer opportunities email deepfreezevolunteers@gmail.com

1600. Volunteers Wanted

[illegible] DEPRESSION sufferers who are interested in participating in a research study. 119 Please call 780-407-3006 or email UofABep@gmail.com

2010. Musicians Available

Fiddle player available. Many years experience. 780 421 1250

2020. Musicians Wanted

Drummer needed for original hard rock band whome covers felt GAVRIS/PEGASUS/Nickelback/Velvet Revolver. Serious only 780-996-3571

Experienced male musician looking for single female musician or singer for duo in the Edmonton area. Bluegrass/ country experience is an asset. All genres welcome (country, gospel, rock and roll, etc. Bookings available. All calls will be returned. Call Bob in the pm at 780-447-1663

Experienced upright bassist w/ strong music reading skills available. Adept improviser within most genres (jazz, folk, rock, country & bluegrass). Steve @ 780-718-2269

Musicians/music needs experienced violinist with strong acting/communication skills for upcoming musical theatre production. Call (780) 460-2937

Musicians/music needs strong supporting cast members for upcoming show. All ages welcome. Call (780) 460-2937

Musicians/music needs strong female with musical theatre exp. Paid position. Some training involved. Call (780) 460-2937

2040. Music Instruction

Guitar lessons. Webcam. Mobile group or private. All ages and any [illegible] Experienced. Visit www.guitarmentor.com or call Billy. 480-5189

2050. Recording Studios

Evolution Recording Studios
Edmonton's premier recording facility [illegible] Edmonton
Great rates for local bands
Tracking / Mixing / Mastering
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evolutionrecordings@live.ca
www.evolutionrecordings.com

2200. Message Therapy

IF YOU'RE TIRED OF INEFFICIENT THERAPY
Therapeutic Massage Open Saturdays Week
By appointment only
1-780-868-6139 (Edmonton)

3010. Auctions

AUCTIONS DONE RIGHT! Whether all equipment real estate liquidation or complete farm dispersal. For a free auction proposal contact Ritchie Bros Auctioneers today! 1-800-491-6494 or rbauction.com

MEIER GUN AUCTION Saturday December 11 11 a.m. 6016 - 72A Ave., Edmonton. Over 200 guns - selling all classics, hunting rifles and shotguns, ammo and sporting goods. Call Meier Auctions at (403) 742-4420-1800

3219. Misc. For Sale

$38.95 HOME phone service. Reconnect your home phone! No long, refused $38.95 monthly - $18.95 one time activation. $19.95 unlimited local & Canada Call Choice. Tel now 1-888-333-1405. www.choicetel.ca.

classifieds

PHONE: 430-9003 | FAX: 432-1102 | EMAIL: classifieds@see.greatwest.ca

3210. Misc. For Sale

97 CHEV 2 door post frame off recie 80% complete Many upgrades Blk Blk-silver upholstery Very nice cruiser serious inquiries only 1-250-832-9181 days Email: rangliss@sunwave.net

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3210. Misc. For Sale

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3210. Misc. For Sale

METAL SIDING/ROOFING Best priced 36" Hi-Ten/Toughrib 29ga Galvalume $.59 sq. ft. Colours $.65 sq. ft IN STOCK 25-30 year warranty ALTA-WIDE Builders Supplies 1-888-263-8354

3210. Misc. For Sale

NEED A SHOP machine shed, barn or arena? Call Ryan Smith, AFAB industries for reliable, experienced, personalized assistance for your building needs. ryan.afab@gmail.com 4 0 3 - 6 1 8 - 0 7 9 7 www.stabrulidesign.ca

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3400. Pets & Supplies

FOR SALE CKC reg'd older spay Bichon Frise female and American Cocker Spaniel female to date with vaccinations. Phone 780-753-6711 Hayter, Alberta

4040. Livestock

LOVE ANIMALS? Love a career as an Animal Health Technologist On-campus working farm Small town environment 2-year ■ diploma program GPRC Fairview Campus Fairview Alberta 1 - 8 8 8 - 9 9 9 - 7 8 6 2 www.gprc.ab.ca/fairview

4310. Grain/Feed/Hay

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3900. Manuf. Homes - Sale

COME VISIT US during the Holidays Our show homes are furnished and heated Celebrating 40 years ■ business in 2011! United Homes Canada 1 - 8 0 0 - 4 6 1 - 7 6 3 2 www.unitedhomescanada.com

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6100. Cars

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6100. Cars

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6650. Tires/Parts/Access.

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7205. Psychics

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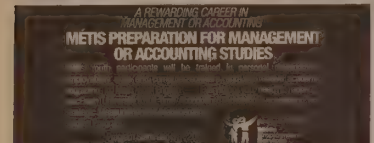

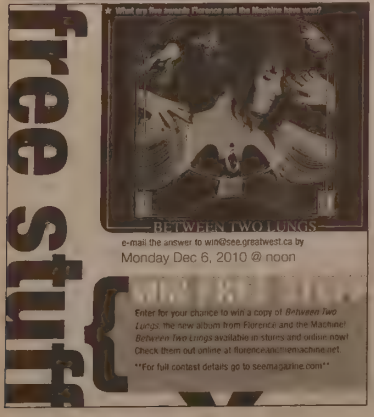

ASTROLOGY • DEC 2 - 8 • BY THE KID

CRUISIN' THE COSMOS

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 – DEC. 21)
When folks find out you've had a windfall, they'll do their damnedest to drag it out from under you. That's why, despite your caring heart and optimistic belief that humans are intrinsically honest and good, you gotta wise up this week. Don't get played 'cause you're trusting and meek!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 – JAN. 19)
Goats are solitary creatures, and sometimes it's best if you go it alone. For example, all this time you're takin' to tussle could be used to try 'n' rustle up some moolah instead, if you'd use your head! Call a truce or say "What's the use?" and walk away without a care. That way you can use your energy on somethin' that'll actually go somewhere!

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 – FEB. 18)
When you're feelin' fully frazzled and the load ahead has got you dazzled, don't descend into depression or despair. You can take your mind off your troubles by puttin' your nose to the grindstone. Just get to whistlin' while you work, set your face up with a smirk and sooner than you know it, you'll be there!

PISCES (FEB. 19 – MARCH 20)
During the week you'll get tired of the fight and just like Homer Simpson, you'll take a big bite when it ain't so right. Mmmmmm, forbidden doughnut.... Damn devil! Who could resist? But you better believe eatin' it is bliss! Just don't count on Marge to bail you out on this one, so don't do the crime if you can't do the time – no matter how fun.

ARIES (MARCH 21 – APRIL 19)
This week boredom'll be the puppet master pullin' your strings and you'll be tempted to do some of the dumbest things. So do 'em already! It's not like anyone's gonna be able to talk you outta it or anything. Just thank the universe that you have them horns, so hittin' a wall don't hurt half as much as it would for the rest of us humans!

TAURUS (APRIL 20 – MAY 20)
Don't get carried away with your wild dreams 'n' schemes, cause things may not be as clear as they seem. After all, when it comes down to it you're still waitin' for the word and if you act too quick, you'll likely look like a turd. Just keep truckin' away at your daily biz and regularly remind yourself that whatever is, is.

GEMINI (MAY 21 – JUNE 20)
Seems no matter how brilliant your brainstorm, nobody's sharin' your enthusiasm. In fact, folks seem downright unfriendly. Forget it. Just play it like a politician and pretend you give up. ☒ you can push it through later by pairing it with a more popular poll-winning concept. Which, of course, they'll be more than happy to hastily accept!

CANCER (JUNE 21 – JULY 22)
Taoism is called the watercourse way 'cause it's about goin' with the flow day-by-day. Seein' as you're a water sign, this should be natural for you and it's a good week to do whatever you want to. Even if it seems silly, don't dare to second guess 'cause following a crazy impulse could lead you to some insane success!

LEO (JULY 23 – AUG. 22)
Just ask anyone who works downtown, money makes the world go 'round. In your case it looks like you're pretty much winnin' 'cause right now your li'l world's wildly spinnin'. You, however, have to watch that you don't get too spun out, so instead of windin' yourself up, spend a chunk o' your change this week on chillin' out!

VIRGO (AUG. 23 – SEPT. 22)
You're one smart cookie so people seek out your insight, and dollars to doughnuts you're less wrong, more right. Although this imparts you with a certain might, your brain'll get mushy from lack of fight. You may think your mind can fend off any attack, but it ain't gonna get stronger unless you admit you don't know jack!

LIBRA (SEPT. 81 – OCT. 22)
No one wants to fight a crazy insane person, so it'd be wise of you to simply pass this one by. It'd be like squatin' off against a chimpanzee with poop in his hand; if you choose to engage him, you'll likely enrage him and make yourself a target where that poop'll land. You won't get the chimp to start thinkin', you'll just end up stinkin', so this week save yourself the trouble and pass that chimp by – on the double!

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 – NOV. 21)
Hey, nobody said bein' the master of your own destiny was gonna be easy. It can be simple, though, if you follow your heart, wherever it goes. It's like a lantern that'll show the way in the dark and steer you clear of your foes. Just make sure you keep it goin' by havin' a steady fuel supply flowing.

SAVAGE (cont'd from p. 30)

experimenting with beautiful women, but they did nothing for me. Any insights?
Breasts On Other Babes

Stop faking, BOOB, and start incorporating your vibrator and your fantasies into the sex you're having with the boyfriend. Your boyfriend needs to talk a boob-esteem-building blue streak while you fuck – he needs to tell you how hot your breasts are, how much they turn him on –and you need to use your vibrator on yourself and fantasize aloud about the assets you've got and the assets you lust after while you two are fucking.
You know what works for you, BOOB, you just have to risk sharing it with the love of your life.

I am an 18-year-old straight girl. I am also a virgin. After my 18th birthday, I bought a small vibrator. I love it – it's completely changed masturbation and I reached orgasm for the first time. However, I'm worried about developing a dependence on it. Should I hold off on using it until I get some real experience?
Teen With A Tech

Enjoy your vibrator, TWAT, and enjoy those orgasms – but mix it up. Masturbate with your vibrator and without; see how worked up you can get through fantasy alone; get yourself close to the edge and finish yourself off with your hand; experiment with nonvibrating, inanimate sex toys. And when you start having sexual experiences with nonvibrating, animate sex toys (boys), don't be shy about introducing them – or their genitals – to your vibrator. Dicks are just big clits, TWAT, and vibrators can work wonders on dicks, too.

I am in college and in a super-fantastic relationship. We have fun together and we have great sex. However, he doesn't orgasm when I blow him or give him a handjob. He says he's never been able to come from blowjobs or handjobs. I don't mind going straight to vaginal intercourse after blowing him for a bit, although I sometimes encourage him to finish himself off and ejaculate in my mouth. It's not like I'm offended; I'd just like to get him there.
I have a tiny mouth and tiny hands – could that be the problem? He says it doesn't have anything to do with me. He just plateaus. HOW DO I SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, DAN? Is our sex life condemned to, God forbid, just vaginal intercourse?
Barely Licking Over Wide Junk Of Boyfriend

What's the opposite of macho drama? Vulvo drama? Look, if you're both giving and receiving oral, and giving and receiving handjobs, then you haven't been "condemned" to "just" vaginal intercourse. You're having all kinds of sex – it's just that he requires something very specific in order to get off. If there are times when you want to mess around without being fucked, or times when you're not up for vaginal intercourse, just get him as close as you can and let him finish himself off with his hand. Your boyfriend is orgasmic; there's no problem to solve.

SEX • ADVICE

What's with that whole macho drama thing?

SAVAGE LOVE DAN SAVAGE

READERS WORRY ABOUT BOYFRIENDS WHO CAN, WHO CAN'T, AND WHO JUST DON'T SEEM TO CARE

I'm a 21-year-old woman with bi-curious tendencies who's been in a committed relationship for four years. He's sweet and kind. We share a lot of interests and get along very well. Thing is, I don't know if I'm meant to be in a committed relationship. For the past year and a half, I've been thinking about what things would be like with another man. I also frequently imagine what it might be like to sleep with another girl. In fact, whenever I'm masturbating, I get more excited by lesbian scenarios than straight scenarios – although I've never been able to come. I've never experienced an orgasm. But that's another can of worms.

The main problem is this: I find myself steadily losing interest in my current partner. I find myself fantasizing about having sex with other men and other women. I'm open to the possibility of a threesome, but my boyfriend isn't. He's completely against the idea. From the start, I've never hidden the fact that I've never reached orgasm, and he's never created any macho drama about that.

I've slowly come to the realization that I'm no longer sexually attracted to my boyfriend. I don't have the motivation to improve our sex life anymore. I just go through the motions. At the same time, my boyfriend remains my best friend and I'm not willing to give up my best friend over sex. I want to keep him in my life, as he is my most important source of emotional support.

If you, as an "impartial" observer, could help me out, I'd really appreciate it.

Have My Cake

You can have your current boyfriend, HMC, at the price of a lousy and uninspired sex life with a guy who doesn't give a shit about your pleasure – excuse me, a partner who hasn't created a lot of "macho drama" about the fact that you've never had an orgasm and isn't interested in helping you realize your fantasies – or you can find a new boyfriend and/or girlfriend and perhaps discover that orgasms are easier to come by when you're with someone who (1) turns you on and (2) gives a shit about your pleasure and (3) hasn't come to symbolize the death of sexual possibility.

Giving up the current boyfriend means you'll have to find a new emotional tampon – excuse me, a new "source of emotional support" – but that's a price that you should be willing to pay, HMC, particularly at your age.

And if you don't want to find yourself boyfriendless and bestfriendless ever again, HMC, in the future keep those roles separate.

GIVING UP THE CURRENT BOYFRIEND MEANS YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND A NEW EMOTIONAL TAMPON — EXCUSE ME, A NEW "SOURCE OF EMOTIONAL SUPPORT" — BUT THAT'S A PRICE THAT YOU SHOULD BE WILLING TO PAY, HMC, PARTICULARLY AT YOUR AGE.

I'm a 26-year-old heterosexual male in a relationship with a 25-year-old female. I'm her first boyfriend. She's never had an orgasm that wasn't self-induced. I've asked her multiple times what I can do to try to get her off, but she doesn't really have anything to tell me. There's a lot of trial and error going on. I feel like I'm kind of flying blind. Help please?

This Question Again

If she can get herself off, TQA, then she should be able to get herself off while you assist. Let her get herself off while you watch, while you hold her, while you suck on her tits, while she sits on your face. Gradually work your way up to her getting herself off while you're inside her.

Don't make the "macho drama" mistake of viewing the orgasms she self-induces while you're there as somehow deficient or dysfunctional. The more you can relax and enjoy the orgasms she's self-inducing now – the more you can both relax and enjoy them – the sooner she'll be able to relax, enjoy, and, perhaps, transition to orgasms induced by someone else/someone else's dick.

If you want that someone else/someone else's dick to you be you/yours, TQA, then don't be an impatient, insecure, macho drama queen about the way she's capable of having orgasms now.

I am a woman who is with the love of her life. I enjoy sex immensely but have begun to fake orgasms because it hurts him that he is not making me come. I believe the obstruction is psychological. I am self-conscious about my body and can only come using a vibrator while looking at pictures of women with nice boobs. I fantasize that I am both the woman in possession of these assets and the person lusting after her. I am certain of my sexual orientation: I did quite a bit of

SAVAGE cont'd on p. 29

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Nick Frost and Even Daum

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